Hafa Adai!

TSL Foundation donates over 4K laptop bags to PSS. PAGE 2
Tropical storm seen to brush past Northern Islands. PAGE 5

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First positive case on Tinian

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

A sailor who deployed from Guam to Tinian tested positive for COVID-19 last Sept. 1, making him the first person on Tinian to contract the coronavirus, bringing the cumulative COVID-19 cases in the CNMI to 57.

The sailor was identified through the travel screening process. According to a Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. statement, the sailor is a part of the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion, also known as Seabees, that are on Tinian to conduct a survey on the Tinian

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AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Sept. 2, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	1,395	52	1,447
Recovered	530	38	568
Active	814	52	866
Deaths	13	0	13
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			38,470

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	56	1	57
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			12,920*

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted to not report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Rabauliman

ON IPI BID TO AMEND CLA FOR 9TH TIME

'No scheduled hearing due to IPI's pending issues'

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI Lottery Commission has yet to meet to talk about the casino operator's bid to have the casino license agreement amended again because they want Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to resolve its issues with the Commonwealth Casino Commission first.

Lottery Commission chair Mark O. Rabauliman, who is also the

See IPI on Page 4

RENOVATION WORK
The American Memorial Park's outdoor theater in Garapan is undergoing renovation and is being repainted to repair the damage caused by past typhoons.
KRIZEL TUAZON

PSS ready for online classes

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada assured that the planned resumption of classes on Sept. 8 will go ahead and, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the main mode of instruction will be remote learning—primarily via online classes.

"Thirty years ago…we didn't know that technology will play a huge part in education. …Looking at the silver

See PSS on Page 4

AS COVID-19 CASES CLIMB IN THE US

There are still none in the Marshall Islands

By SUSANNE RUST
LOS ANGELES TIMES

As coronavirus cases climb many U.S. states, some Pacific Island nations have safely ridden out the storm.

The Marshall Islands is still COVID-19-free.

"We saw the threat and took action early," said Jack Niedenthal, secretary of Health for the mid-Pacific island nation, describing the island nation's March 3 travel ban, which prevented incoming travelers

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INSIDE

BUSINESS
Luxury Gallery at Kensington Saipan offers world renowned brands Gucci, Burberry, Prada and more.

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President Donald Trump is recycling a conspiracy theory to claim that recent protests have been orchestrated.

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Country star Miranda Lambert is the leading nominee at the 2020 Country Music Association Awards.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

TSL Foundation donates over 4K laptop bags to PSS

With the opening of new school year just around the corner, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation has stepped forward to assist the Public School System in its online classes.

The TSL Foundation, the charitable arm of TanHoldings, has donated 4,887 laptop bags worth $122,175 to PSS, which will be implementing remote learning across the CNMI starting Sept. 8 in response to the CNMI government's safety directives against the COVID-19 pandemic.

"What a perfect time to receive this generous donation from the Tan Siu Lin Foundation. Just recently, PSS has acquired laptops that will be distributed to students to help conduct our online classes this school year and these bags will be very useful for the safekeeping of their computers and other educational materials," Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tan Siu Lin Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino, fourth from right, presents the donated laptop bags to the Public School System, which is represented by Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada, center, PSS director of Instructional Technology Dr. Bobby Cruz, seventh from left, and the district's other department heads during the turnover ceremony last Monday at TanHoldings Corporate Affairs' conference room in Garapan.

Ada received the laptop bags from TSL Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino during the donation turnover ceremony at the TanHoldings Corporate Affairs' office in Garapan last Monday. PSS director of Instructional Technology Dr. Bobby Cruz and the district's other department heads were also present at the event.

Cruz thanked the foundation for never letting PSS down, saying its generosity plays a big role in fulfilling the district's commitment to serve the students and community well.

The TSL Foundation, which gave away over 3,473 Dell brand laptop bags worth $87,000 to students and teachers in both public and public schools and the Northern Marianas College last year, made this second donation to PSS after Kagman High School acting principal Ben Jones Jr. reached out to the group. In approaching the TSL Foundation, Jones took note of the economic challenges the pandemic has brought to the community and getting free laptop bags and protecting the computers from wear and tear would save students and their families money that they could use for other necessities.

"At this time of the pandemic, any amount we could save and use for our everyday needs is important. This bag could easily cost one between $20 and $30, so imagine if one family has three students. Also, with students now having to use their laptops at home every day, you could expect maintenance problems, but having an appropriate storage could help them take care of their computers," Jones said.

Tolentino acknowledged the PSS leadership for taking initiatives to ensure that students will be able continue their education under a unique, but safer setting at this time. She assured that the TSL Foundation will continue to work with PSS and private schools in the CNMI to find ways to help students.

"Education is one of the top priorities of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation. We can't allow the many challenges we are experiencing right now to discourage us from educating our children and helping them achieve their goals," Tolentino said. ***(PR)***

Cool Laundry II owner appeals for immediate reopening

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The owner of Cool Laundry II, which was among the two establishments that the CNMI COVID-19 Task Force recently closed for alleged violation of the emergency directives, appealed to the task force to allow the immediate reopening of the business.

Jung Ja Kim, president of Soi-In Corp. that owns Cool Laundry II in Kagman, assured Alcohol Beverage Tobacco Control Division director David Maratita that they are constantly monitoring and sanitizing the facility.

ABTC, a sub-task force of the COVID-19 Task Force, shut down Cool Laundry II in Kagman 3 last Monday.

In a letter to Maratita, Kim said that ABTC personnel informed her that the reason for shutting down the facility is due to lack of consistent monitoring. She explained that they have been consistently monitoring and sanitizing Cool II and Cool I in Fina Sisu, at least on an hourly basis, if not more. Kim said the business is at its critical point to be able to sustain operations.

Jung Ja Kim

Kim told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they do have a staff and a schedule for cleaning, sanitizing, monitoring the crowd inside, and also in going around to clean the buildings, and that their staff is not at Cool Laundry II all the time.

Kim said ABTC required her to submit a written monitoring plan. To comply, Kim said she had already submitted to ABTC their proposed risk mitigation measures.

"As the CNMI adjusts restrictive public health measures, we would kindly request that Department of Commerce consider allowing our coin laundry arcade to reopen or operate during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Kim in her letter to Maratita.

Cool Laundry II started operating in 2008.

The CNMI COVID-19 Task Force shut down Cool Laundry II and Cheers Karaoke in Garapan for alleged violation of the emergency directives and temporarily closed Saipan Vegas in Chalan Laulau and Club 88 in Garapan for alleged failure to rectify reopening plan issues.

At a radio news briefing last Tuesday, Maratita said they had inspected over the week 245 establishments and, of those, 154 were found compliant with the directives, for a 63% compliance rate, and 85 establishments that were non-compliant.

He said those 35% that were found non-compliant were advised, educated, and warned to fix the varying infractions.

In the case against Cool Laundry II, Maratita said it was left unattended, nobody was there to maintain crowd control and they were not regularly sanitizing the premises.

Maratita said the owners of Cool Laundry II and Cheers Karaoke had already visited his office on Monday and submitted their plan on what needs to be mitigated in their establishments. He said they are working with them to become compliant reviewing their reopening mitigation measures, proposal, and plans on how to address those violations.

At the same radio news briefing, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres they want every business to be all in compliance as he emphasized that the whole purpose of the inspections is not to close businesses.

High surf, rip currents seen today

A high surf advisory will be in effect starting noon today, Sept. 3, 2020, and there will be a high risk for rip currents beginning noon today.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, surf will briefly fall below hazardous levels on west facing reefs by Thursday morning. By Thursday afternoon, another pulse of northwest swell will produce hazardous surf of 7 to 10 feet along west and north facing reefs. This will result in a high risk of rip currents in north and west facing reefs of Tinian and Saipan. This is expected to persist through the weekend, making for hazardous swimming and surfing conditions and localized beach erosion. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. Inexperienced swimmers should remain out of the water due to dangerous surf conditions.

The public is being advised to swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don`t swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. ***(PR)***

Public advised that CUC to build sewer line

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be construction happening at the Chalan Kiya substation to the intersection of Chalan Monsignor Guerrero and Chalan Pale Arnold Road beginning today, Sept. 3, 2020, to De. 31, 2020.

The purpose of the elimination is to allow RNV Construction, CUC's contractor, to safely install a gravity sewer line from the W-6 Sewer Lift Station to the W-5 Sewer Lift Station in order to eliminate the W-6 Lift Station.

Given the amount of time of construction activity that is expected to take place in the affected areas, motorists are advised to slow down near the project site and heed traffic control direction and devices. Pedestrians are also advised to avoid walking through the project area and to find an alternative route.

For more information, contact CUC Saipan's hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (littps://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

2 wanted for questioning

The Department of Public Safety is seeking the public's help in locating two individuals, Maynard Dela Cruz and Rollin Skaggs, who are both wanted for questioning. Anyone with information on their whereabouts should contact the Criminal Bureau of Investigation at 664-9064, or 911. If you wish to remain anonymous, call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. ***(PR)***

Dela Cruz

Skaggs

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

4.7-magnitude earthquake on Saipan

At 12:45pm on Sept. 2, 2020, a report of a 4.7-magnitude earthquake occurred 280 kilometers north of Saipan in the CNMI. Currently, no warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

Power outage on Sept. 8

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020, from 9am to 1pm in the areas of Tanapag (areas north of the Tanapag Mobil Gas Station), Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi.

This is intended to de-energize utility lines so that Commonwealth Utilities Corp. linemen can safely replace rusted power pole hardware, deteriorated cross arms and rotted primary poles in the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars every Thursday in September. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ **Sept. 3 – How to Get HUBZone Certified** – All of Guam and the CNMI are HUBZones. The Guam PTAC will take you through the certification process, the required supporting documents, and follow-up requirements from SBA.

■ **Sept. 10 – How to Get 8(a) Certified** – The SBA's 8(a) Program was created to help small, disadvantaged businesses compete in the federal procurement market. The Guam PTAC will help you navigate the forms and requirements of the 8a program.

■ **Sept. 17 – Cybersecurity for Federal Contractors** – Cybersecurity is a national security issue. We will discuss what Federal contractors can do to make sure they are complying with DOD requirements with respect to keeping data protected. DOD's upcoming Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification will be discussed.

■ **Sept. 24 – Responding to Requests for Proposals** – The Guam PTAC will walk participants through the common sections and clauses of an RFP as well as provide tips on developing a proposal in response to an RFP.

Register at http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php. ***(PR)***

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Rota's airport receives $750K to fix runway

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two months after receiving a grant to fix its fence, the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport on Rota was awarded a $750,000 grant from the Federal Aviation Administration last Sept. 1 to help the airport improve its runway.

According to a list that was provided by the FAA, Rota's airport will be using this grant to rehabilitate their airport runway's apron, where airplanes usually park and where passengers disembark.

This new grant award comes soon after the Commonwealth Ports Authority received a $2.1-million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation last July 3 to complete the Rota airport's perimeter fence.

Rota was also exempted from austerity measures last March 2020, to ensure that CPA will proceed with the Benjamin T. Manglona International Airport's plan for new international terminal facilities. CPA board Airport Facilities Committee chair Barrie C. Toves told *Saipan Tribune* last March 24 that there had been private investors who have shown an interest to build the international terminal building, along with its amenities that will facilitate their planned investment on Rota.

The Airport Improvement Program airport grant program funds airport infrastructure projects that includes runways, taxiways, airport signage, airport lighting, and airport markings.

The new grant awarded to Rota is part of the $1.2-billion airport safety and infrastructure grants that the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded to 405 airports in 50 states and six U.S. territories.

"This $1.2-billion federal investment will improve our nation's airport infrastructure, enhance safety, and strengthen growth in local communities, which is especially important as the economy recovers from COVID-19," said Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao.

MARSHALL

From Page 1

from across the globe. The Marshallese government had banned travelers from China several weeks earlier.

The safe status of the Marshall Islands contrasts with what Marshallese immigrants are experiencing in the United States. As *The Times r*ecently reported, Marshallese have been disproportionately infected with the coronavirus in cities such as Spokane, Wash., and Springdale, Ark., in part because many of them serve as essential workers.

In the South Pacific and Central Pacific, many islands nations, including New Zealand, have so far staved off the worst of COVID-19 by closing their borders early and taking other public health measures.

Across the globe, only six countries are reportedly COVID-19 free. With the exception of North Korea, all of them—Kiribati, Palau, American Samoa, Nauru and Micronesia—are Pacific Island nations that closed their borders to outside travelers.

As of Wednesday, there are nearly 6.09 million coronavirus cases in the United States, more than any other country.

The Marshall Islands' travel ban is still in place, while the government builds the infrastructure and stockpiles the equipment it will need should the virus invade.

According to Casten Nemra, the Marshall Islands' minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, construction on a new COVID-19 medical isolation center on Majuro—the nation's capital and most populated island—is almost complete.

"Then we can begin bringing back our citizens who have been stranded," he said, noting the nearly 500 Marshallese traveling abroad when the travel ban was announced—including Niedenthal's wife, daughter and grandson, who were visiting family in Portland.

When the pandemic spread out of China and Europe earlier this year, the Marshall Islands had already been restricting domestic travel because of a dengue fever outbreak. So the decision to close down early was easy.

"People thought we were out of our minds," said Niedenthal, who leads the nation's health care response. "They said travel bans don't work."

But for island nations, he said, they do.

Now the nation is considering restricting outbound travel too.

Niedenthal said the Marshallese are watching "the mass chaos in the U.S." where government officials "have lost control over the disease and don't seem to be doing anything on the federal level to protect its own citizens."

"Given how hard our own citizens have been hammered by this disease in the U.S., it just scares the hell out of us," he said, noting that a decision is likely to be made by July 23, when the next commercial airline flight is scheduled to depart.

IPI

From Page 1

Commerce secretary, said yesterday that he and rest of the Lottery commissioners haven't officially met yet on IPI's ninth bid to have the CLA amended. Right now, Rabauliman said, he is in communication with the Office of the Attorney General about IPI's request. "So in a nutshell, right now, we're still looking over the proposed amendments that they've put forth," he said.

Rabauliman said there are still many questions that he would like answered before they're able to actually meet.

The other members of the Lottery Commission are Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero and Finance Secretary David Atalig.

Rabauliman said they are just letting the process take care of itself between IPI and the Commonwealth Casino Commission with regard to a lot of issues that IPI is dealing with CCC.

He pointed out that he has not set a schedule yet to hold a public hearing about IPI's request.

Rabauliman said he informed IPI chief executive officer Donald R. Browne last July 23 that, after his review of the proposed amendments, he was advised by the OAG that there is no legal obligation to hold a hearing for the purpose of considering any amendments to the casino license agreement and to defer any action until the issue cited by CCC is dealt with.

"There are still some issues that need to be worked out…[and]…are pending with CCC," Rabauliman said.

IPI filed its proposed amendment No. 9 before the CNMI Lottery Commission in early July. Among the changes IPI wants this time is to cut the annual casino license fee in half, extend the deadlines for IPI to complete the construction of the Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan and its other projects, and to change the community benefit fund into a percentage of its net profit instead of a flat amount.

In its request for amendments, IPI cited many unexpected global and local events, including the COVID-19 pandemic, for their significant impact on the company, plus many changes in laws and regulations that cannot be predicted and that are beyond IPI's control.

FIRST

From Page 1

port construction project.

According to a press statement from the Tinian Mayor's Office, all Seabees were taken directly to a hotel upon arriving on Tinian from Guam last Aug. 31 and remained in mandatory quarantine until they were brought to the Tinian Health Center for additional testing last Sept. 1.

Warren Villagomez, head of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, said the sailor has been brought to the Kanoa Resort in Susupe where he is now in quarantine, along with 11 Seabees personnel. The team traveled via military aircraft from Guam and flew into the Tinian base in the north field.

"From all accounts, this individual has followed all protocols and procedures required prior to departure to, and upon arrival on Tinian. Our current health screening measures include a redundant testing requirement prior to departing to Tinian and upon arrival to Tinian and mandatory quarantine. This system, although burdensome, is critical to effectively screen for COVID-19 and keeping our community safe," said Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan.

The Tinian Health Center, the Tinian Municipal Operations Command, and CHCC have already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts of the new case.

According to the CHCC statement, the U.S. Department of Defense had informed the CNMI government that the entire Seabees team was under restricted movement for more than 14 days on the U.S. Naval Base Guam and all of them tested negative for COVID-19 before traveling to Tinian.

Villagomez stated that CHCC, the task force, and DoD all agreed to quarantine the sailor, as well as the people who had direct contact with him, which includes the Seabees personnel and two additional sailors, who will undergo the mandatory fifth day testing, and remain in Kanoa Resort for close monitoring.

Villagomez said that the Tinian hotel where the sailor stayed in and the rental cars that they used will undergo disinfection. He added that the Department of Public Safety and the task force representative on Tinian will make sure that there is no cross-contamination.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres later said in a statement that the CNMI government's partnership with Joint Region Marianas, the COVID-19 Task Force, CHCC, and Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan allowed them to assess and identify the sailor and those who were in contact with the sailor and "place them in isolation away from the community."

Esther Muña, CHCC chief executive officer, says that, given that the COVID-19 virus is still evolving, the CNMI will continue to be aggressive with testing to further reduce a possible community transmission.

PSS

From Page 1

lining about our situation, perhaps this is what we need for all of us to shift into using technology that will take us to a big wave of change… On Sept. 8, PSS will go full remote learning," Ada said during a presentation at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce virtual membership meeting yesterday.

"We are ready and have prepared four different plans in the event that the COVID-19 situation in the CNMI shifts, which includes a full remote learning, hybrid remote on-site learning, a partial reopening method, and full reopening," Ada added. "…The biggest priority still is when the student is out of PSS, he or she is an independent, global, and contributing member of society."

This was echoed by Dr. Bobby Cruz, PSS Instructional Technology director, who said their students' education, safety, and wellbeing is their priority. "That is why the primary method that we will use is remote learning. …Remote learning provides an opportunity for students and teachers to stay connected and engaged while working in different locations," he said.

He said that PSS is aware that PSS students have experienced a great deal of learning loss, first due to Typhoon Soudelor and then Super Typhoon Yutu and now the COVID-19 pandemic. "Remote learning will ensure education continuity and student and staff safety," he added.

The instructional approach will focus on synchronous and asynchronous teaching. Synchronous teaching means the child will participate via online video conferencing and will have live real-time interaction with teachers and classmates. The latter is when learning materials are given to the child online that provide learning activities on their own.

Learning engagements will be via Blackboard Classroom, a virtual conferencing tool and a platform used by many schools and universities in the U.S. mainland for online teaching. Within it, there is a tool called Blackboard Collaborate where students can interact with their teachers, co-students and peers. Other tools are available in every teacher's classroom to make virtual class engaging and accessible.

"We have only been seeing the work done in August and September but this work actually began as soon as the pandemic hit the Marianas. …We had a cohort of trainers learn how to use the learning management system and in August the entire instructional staff of PSS have been… learning how to use Blackboard to facilitate online instruction," Cruz said.

"Another reason why we are using Blackboard Classroom is because of data security and privacy. We cannot allow teachers to use any platform that they want because of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act and that is why we need to make sure that students' personal information is protected. …So we have integrated our student information system with the Blackboard Classroom learning management system for optimal security," he added

Based on the a preliminary survey that PSS has conducted with the students' families, about 20% of the population will need support when it comes to gadgets and internet access. He said that PSS has procured 5,000 laptops that are now on the way to the CNMI.

"In the meantime, we are doing an inventory of [the] technology that we have…so we can disseminate [them] to our students that need it," Cruz said. "We also procured WiFi devices and this will ensure that students and families will have connectivity at home. …Not all students will get devices so we are putting together guidelines to determine those families that really need it and school administrators are seeing that at their level. …There may be students who don't have power and, although that is a very small portion of our population, we have to consider support and help those students who are in need," Cruz added.

Orientation among teachers, administrators, and families will happen throughout September. "During orientation, the child will learn how to use Blackboard for remote learning, teachers will also communicate regarding class schedules and device learning resources for the child's use at home," Cruz said. "…This was not an easy shift…I was actually fearful that it will not take off but the four weeks of training have been positive. …If you personally know our teachers, please commend them. Our classroom teachers have done an extraordinary job in using the 'why' they serve as educational professionals to help them overcome the many hurdles that accompany this shift to remote learning."

Tropical storm seen to brush past Northern Islands

The season's first tropical storm is intensifying very close to the northern CNMI, which means it will skip the inhabited islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point, Tropical Storm Haishen is nearing Agriha, Pagan, and Alamagan. At 8am yesterday, Haishen (or 11W) was located by satellite with maximum sustained winds of 50 mph and was moving west-southwest at 8 mph.

This is about 210 miles west-northwest of Agrihan, about 235 miles northwest of Pagan, about 260 miles northwest of Alamagan, and about 395 miles north-northwest of Saipan

Tropical Storm Haishen will move west-southwest through the day before turning northwest today, Thursday, with little change in forward speed. Haishen was intensifying and there was a possibility that it would turn into a typhoon last night. Scatterometer data shows tropical storm force winds just west of the islands of the northern CNMI.

Rain bands associated with Haishen may brush the Northern Islands and cause occasional heavy rain showers and thunderstorms. These may bring brief wind gusts up to 40 mph through the day. By Thursday Haishen will continue to move away and winds will begin to decrease, as will the potential for heavy showers. One to three inches of additional rain is possible through Thursday.

Dangerous surf of around 15 feet is likely to continue along west and north facing reefs through Friday. Interisland travel by boat should be avoided the next few days due to winds and seas. Hazardous surf along west and north facing reefs is likely to continue through early next week as Haishen continues to send long-period swell toward the Marianas.

Precautionary/preparedness actions...

Residents of Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrihan are being advised to monitor the situation closely and heed instructions from Saipan HSEM EOC State Warning Point via high frequency single side band radio on 5.205.0. ***(PR)***

Jucutan's request for early release opposed

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The recent request of former U.S. Army Reserve Jordan Jucutan to be released early from his sentence due to his high risk of contracting COVID-19 is being opposed.

Assistant U.S Attorney Garth Backe opposed Jucutan's request for early release because, for one, Jucutan is not housed at the main prison of the Federal Correctional Institution in Sheridan, Oregon. Rather, he is housed at the facility's minimum security satellite camp.

"None of the defendant's arguments address the specific conditions at SCP Sheridan, as opposed to FCI Sheridan. And the United States could not uncover a single case where an inmate was granted compassionate release from SCP Sheridan, as opposed to FCI Sheridan," Backe said

Secondly, Backe said the U.S. government strenuously disputes the defendant's characterization of the Bureau of Prisons' ability to handle the present situation at FCI Sheridan.

"Contrary to the defendant's representations, no staff members at FCI Sheridan have tested positive. Zero employees out of a total of 313 have tested positive for COVID-19. In fact, two of the four inmates who tested positive were actually at FDC Sheridan," he said.

Lastly, Backe said the U.S. government opposes the motion because Jucutan is proposing to move from a location where there have been zero positive cases, SCP Sheridan, to a place where there have been close to 1,000, in Thurston County, Washington.

Jucutan, who is serving a 28-month prison sentence for wire fraud and aggravated identity theft, claims he has an underlying medical condition, obesity and asthma, and a high risk of contracting COVID-19.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Jucutan started serving his sentence on July 17, 2019 and with four months reduction for good time, he is scheduled to be released on July 11, 2021.

Jucutan was convicted on the charge of engaging in a scheme to defraud the U.S. government and obtaining money falsely by claiming he referred nominees or potential soldiers to enlist in the Army Reserve through the AR-RAP program and received $2,000 for every nominee that enlisted and went through the training.

Jucutan said he recruited a total of 38 nominees. He signed a sworn affidavit admitting he "stole" the personal information of four nominees, entered their information into the Docupak webpage and received $9,000 for the nominations. Dokupak runs the AR-RAP program.

On May 26, 2016, a federal jury found Jucutan guilty of four counts of wire fraud and four counts of aggravated identity theft.

$5K FOR 5 YEARS

First lady Diann Torres, second from left, presents $500 to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library as a part of the Lady Diann Torres Foundation's "$5K for 5 Years" that celebrates its fifth anniversary. Other recipients of this donation includes a Tan Sui Lin project with Marianas Visitors Authority, Music of the Marianas, the Center for Living Independently, NMI Autism Society, Commonwealth Women's Association, Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, Pride Marianas, Karidat, and Fitbeat.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rotary clubs donate $10K to UOG scholarship

From left, Vic Camacho, immediate past president, Rotary Club of Tumon Bay; Christina Noket, immediate past president, Rotary Club of Guam Sunrise; Luckie Sakamoto, assistant district governor, Rotary District 2750; Anita Borja Enriquez, senior vice president and provost of the University of Guam, president of the Rotary E-Club of Pago Bay Guam, and past secretary of the Pacific Basic Group; Wayne Santos, past assistant district governor for Rotary District 2750 and past president of Rotary Club of Northern Guam; John Rivera, immediate past president; and Kristina Sayama, past president, both of the Rotary E-Club of Pago Bay Guam.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

The Pacific Basin Group of Rotary clubs from Rotary District 2750 donated $10,000 on June 22 in continued support of the PBG Rotary Friendship Scholarship Program at the University of Guam. The funds were part of more than $23,000 that the group raised through two golf tournaments in support of student scholarship programs.

The Pacific Basin Group clubs, which include Rotary clubs in Guam, Saipan, Palau, Pohnpei, and Chuuk, have awarded $120,000 to deserving UOG students over the past 12 years, with most funds sponsored annually by Rotary clubs in Tokyo.

The golf tournaments, held last year at the Starts Guam Golf Resort and the Country Club of the Pacific, coincided with the Rotary District 2750 Conference, which is held in Guam every decade with attendance by Rotarians from Japan, Guam, and the surrounding region. ***(UOG)***

OAG requests reassignment of sex abuse case

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General's criminal division has asked the court to reassign to a different judge the preliminary hearing for a sexual abuse of a minor case.

Assistant attorney general Samantha Vickery entered a motion before Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja to reassign the preliminary hearing of Rudolph Rudolph rather than to reset the date for a third time.

Rudolph was charged on Aug. 5 with three counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and four counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

A preliminary hearing was originally set for the same day, but the Public Defender's Office requested to withdraw representation because of conflict. A private counsel was appointed and the case came before the court again for a preliminary hearing on Aug. 12.

Vickery said the defense made a verbal motion on Aug. 12 to compel all tangible materials in order to cross-examine the detective in the case but the OAG objected to the request and the court continued the preliminary hearing to Sept. 2.

On Aug. 12 Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho issued an order to the defense to file a written motion and request for intangible materials.

On Aug. 17, the defense attorney filed a motion for all tangible materials used by law enforcement to establish probable cause to fully and properly cross-examine the government witness.

The OAG filed an opposition on Aug. 24, citing the preliminary hearing's lack of jurisdiction to entertain motions to compel discovery as well as several other reasons.

On Aug. 26, Camacho issued a *sua sponte* order resetting the preliminary hearing for a third time to Sept. 23. *Sua sponte* is an act of authority taken without formal prompting from another party.

"This *sua sponte* order also vacated the arraignment for a second time, a function reserved for the presiding judge and moved it from Sept. 14 to Sept. 23," Vickery said.

$250K awarded to group that aids Compact migrants

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs is awarding a $250,000 Technical Assistance Program grant for fiscal year 2020 to support "We are Oceania," a one-stop service shop in Honolulu that liaises with the government and other organizations in Hawaii to help individuals and families who have migrated from the freely associated states make a smooth transition toward productive and meaningful opportunities in the United States.

"The Compact of Free Association allows for individuals from the freely associated states to travel to the United States to live and to work, but this has also resulted in significant social impacts to jurisdictions like Hawaii and Guam," said Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Douglas W. Domenech. "The support we provide to *We are Oceania* through the *Partners in Development Foundation* works toward mitigating those impacts. We believe that by improving communications and helping individuals and families to better themselves, the larger community of Hawaii will be strengthened."

Partners in Development Foundation, a Hawaii nonprofit organization, will receive $250,000 that will be used to support and strengthen the We are Oceania. Since its launch in 2015, *We are Oceania* has provided support to thousands of new immigrants, primarily from the freely associated states, in areas such as health, education, and employment. *We are Oceania* was established to help mitigate impacts of legal migration in Hawaii made possible through the Compacts of Free Association and has recently provided important assistance to these communities in mitigating impacts of COVID-19. The Partners in Development Foundation administers funds for the program and continues to support *We are Oceania* in its efforts to become a standalone, federally-recognized, non-profit organization run by Micronesians, serving Micronesian populations.

The OIA Technical Assistance Program is made available each year by Congress to support priorities in the U.S. territories and the freely associated states. For more information on grant assistance provided through OIA, please visit: https://www.doi.gov/oia/financial-assistance. ***(PR)***

IPI APPEARS BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEE

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC chief executive officer Donald R. Browne discusses IPI's plans as well as its position regarding the exclusive casino license matter on Tuesday afternoon before members of the House of Representatives Gaming Committee chaired by Rep. Ralph Yumul (R-Saipan). To Browne's left is IPI senior vice president of Public Affairs Tao Xing. Both IPI officials disclosed that they have a $150-million funding commitment and what they need is a strong partnership with the CNMI government, not a threat to revoke its exclusive casino license.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

$884.9K grant supports students from US territories, freely associated states

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A total of $884,978 in fiscal year 2020 grant funding is being provided through the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs' Technical Assistance Program to support students from the U.S. territories and freely associated states.

"This funding will provide important opportunities to high school students with important civic-education opportunities through the Close Up Foundation, and also provide important fellowships for strengthening management of natural resources throughout the Micronesia region," said Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Douglas W. Domenech.

Fiscal year 2020 Technical Assistance Program grant funding totaling $884,978 will be provided to support student civic-education programs and capacity development for students studying natural resource management and related careers in the U.S. territories and freely associated states as follows:

■ **Close Up Foundation – $672,978** will be used to support the Close Up Insular Area Program, which provides civic education programs about government for students and teachers from the U.S. territories and the freely associated states who plan to visit the Washington, D.C., area in the summer of 2021. A portion of the funds will support virtual learning programs instituted since the coronavirus pandemic and professional development for teachers. The Close Up Foundation, headquartered in Alexandria, VA, manages this program for students from the insular areas.

■ **Micronesia Conservation Trust - $212,000** will be used to support graduate students from the Micronesia region who are pursuing degrees in resources management and related degrees. These students will be assigned to carry out a project with a host agency in either of the Micronesia Conservation Trust entities, which are the CNMI, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. Funds will also support Micronesia Challenge Young Champions, which provides undergraduate students working with organizations focused on conservation of natural resources. The goal is to encourage and support new and emerging leaders for resource management efforts in the Micronesia region.

The OIA Technical Assistance Program is made available each year by Congress to support priorities in the U.S. territories and the freely associated states. For more information on grant assistance provided through OIA, please visit: https://www.doi.gov/oia/financial-assistance. ***(PR)***

BECQ concerned about marine debris

Marine debris washing up on beaches in the CNMI have ended up here from as far as China and Hawaii and this is especially concerning to the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Speaking at a recent Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, BECQ-Coral Reef Initiative's Mallory Muna and BECQ-Coastal Zone's Collen Flores said that the east side of Saipan has been experiencing a lot of marine debris washup and even remote beaches like the Old Man of the Sea have not been spared from the entry of these garbage, many of which are not from Saipan.

"We have been seeing different marine debris from China and Hawaii," they said.

"Marine debris isn't just a local problem but it is an international problem. Small islands like the CNMI carry the burden of responsibility of bringing awareness too and changing the way we deal with marine debris because we are the main ones that are impacted," said Muna.

Muna said there have been many setbacks due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "Many have resorted back to using non eco-friendly products because of the lack of options to dine-in at many restaurants, forcing them to use single-use plastic containers."

To inform the community more about this issue, BECQ is conducting an outreach campaign called "Plastic Free Marianas." Launched last January, Plastic Free Marianas is an education outreach campaign to educate the community about the impacts of marine debris and single-plastic use. ***(Chevy Alipio)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

Public Notice

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: September 3, 2020

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for a proposed catch limit of 2000 metric tons (t) of longline-caught bigeye tuna per US Pacific territory for 2021. NMFS would also allow territories to allocate up to 1500 t to US longline fishing vessels in agreements that meet established criteria. More information about the proposed activity can be accessed via the DCRM website at: https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/2020-08-28-CZM-MP-Proposed-2021-Territorial-BET-Limits-0648-XP014.pdf.

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan.

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resources Management at fedcon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on September 3, 2020 and ending on September 18, 2020. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
RF1Q NO.: RFQ20-DOF-112

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE CNMI GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING (ERP) SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY VISITING RFP.DOF.GOV.MP.

****MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFQ MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO rfq@dof.gov.mp OR FACSIMILE TO (670) 664-1115 **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, SEPTEMBER 04, 2020**. ALL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB20-OGM-113

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 28, 2020 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "F" PICK-UP TRUCK 4WD/FOUR-FULL-DOORS THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT & STATE CLEARING HOUSE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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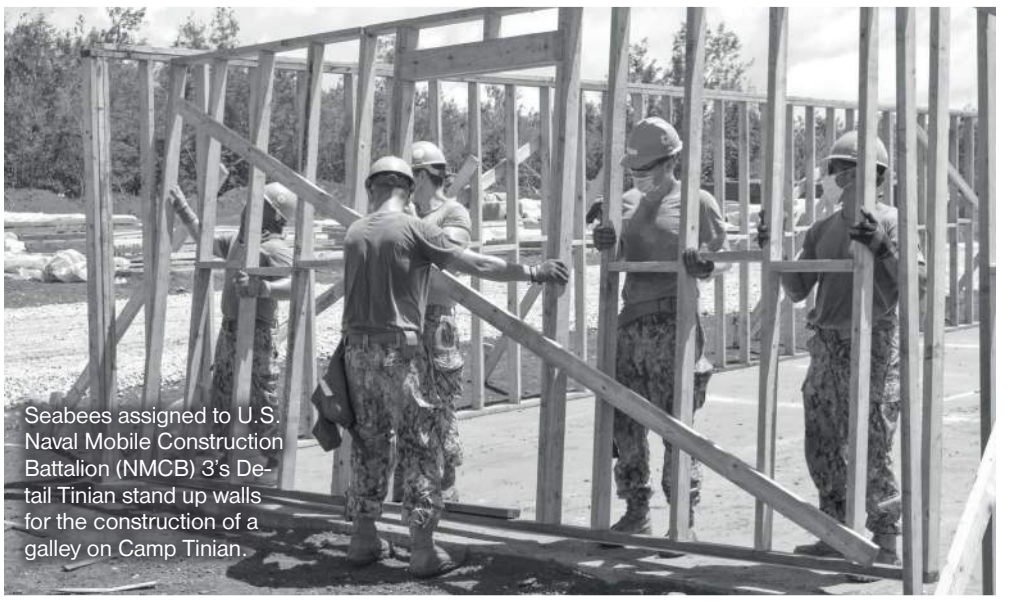
/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Seabees Build Camp Tinian

PHOTOS By U.S. NAVY/CONSTRUCTION ELECTRICIAN 3RD CLASS MARCUS HENLEY

Engineering Aide 2nd Class Giacomo Fitton, from Gibsonville, N.C., and Construction Mechanic 2nd Class George Berry, assigned to U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Detail Tinian, measure the distances between the placements of string line used to show perimeters of a future concrete pad near the galley on Camp Tinian.



Seabees assigned to U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3's Detail Tinian stand up walls for the construction of a galley on Camp Tinian.

Equipment Operator 3rd Class Thomas Jung from Philadelphia, assigned to U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Detail Tinian, wets the ground to prepare an area for a concrete placement for the construction of laundry facilities on Camp Tinian.

Steelworker 3rd Class Bryce Thompson, from New Castle, Ind., assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Detail Tinian, cuts corrugated metal sheeting to be used for the construction of a Southwest Asia hut on Camp Tinian.

Equipment Operator 3rd Class Sergio Velez-Valentin, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Detail Tinian, moves construction materials with an 11K telehandler forklift on Camp Tinian.

Builder Constructionman Matthew Best, from Stockton, Calif., and Engineering Aide 2nd Class Giacomo Fitton, from Gibsonville, N.C., both assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Detail Tinian, install corrugated metal sheeting on a Southwest Asia hut being constructed on Camp Tinian.

Builder 3rd Class James Gilson, from Detroit, assigned to U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Detail Tinian, inventories and secures tool kits on Camp Tinian.

Construction Mechanic Constructionman Arturo Alvarez, from Bridgeton, N.J., assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Detail Tinian, performs maintenance on the air brake system on a Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement on Camp Tinian.

Steel Worker 3rd Class Bryce Thompson, from New Castle, Ind., assigned to U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Detail Tinian, cuts and measures reinforcing steel in preparation for a concrete placement on Camp Tinian.

Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Brandon Block, from Belle Plaine, Min., assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Detail Tinian, performs maintenance on the fuel system of a skid-steer on Camp Tinian.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Get the flu vaccine to avoid a US 'twindemic'

The COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S. fortunately had minimal overlap with the influenza season's typical December-February peak. But that grace period is coming to a close as the new coronavirus remains uncontrolled through much of the country and the yearly flu season approaches again.

Thankfully, there's an inexpensive, widely available remedy to avoid what experts have dubbed a "twindemic," meaning simultaneous outbreaks of these two dangerous respiratory viruses. That solution is something we should all be getting this fall anyway—the annual flu shot.

It's always important to be immunized against a seasonal health threat that kills between 12,000 and 61,000 Americans annually. But the ongoing COVID crisis lends additional urgency. The flu alone can strain health care capacity during a normal year. Fewer people getting seriously ill from it would help conserve needed hospital capacity for COVID cases.

"Without a doubt if there ever was a year to get your flu shot, it's this year," said Patsy Stinchfield, a pediatric infectious-disease nurse practitioner with the Children's Minnesota health care system.

Flu vaccine shipments are already underway to health care providers. There should be plenty of vaccine here and elsewhere. "Vaccine manufacturers have projected that they will supply between 194 million and 198 million doses of influenza vaccine for the 2020-2021 season. This is a 20 million dose increase compared to the record 175 million doses distributed for the 2019-2020 flu season," according to a recent statement from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The shot is generally recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older, with autumn continuing to be the optimal time frame. But reports indicating frustrating reluctance to take advantage of a COVID vaccine, should one become available, also raise concerns about flu shots. Ludicrous conspiracy theories about COVID and the scientists battling it abound on social media. The disinformation could have a spillover effect of broader distrust.

The shift to home offices also raises concerns. Many people get the yearly immunization at their workplace. This year, fewer will have that opportunity.

The Minnesota Health Department is commendably strengthening its flu shot awareness campaign with the help of CDC funding. The MDH website also lists vaccination clinics where qualifying uninsured or underinsured adults can get free shots. In addition, the Minnesota Vaccines for Children Program offers free or low-cost shots for those eligible under the age of 18.

But state health officials can't, and shouldn't have to, power this campaign on their own. Collaboration from em-

See US on Next Page

Can a college course teach students to 'unlearn' racism?

By JENNIFER E. CROSS
Colorado State University

Many Americans are asking how they can be more sensitive to members of different racial groups, a desire fueling sales of books like "How to be an Anti-racist" and the presence of "Hate has no home here" signs in front yards. But how to achieve that goal is anything but clear. Jeni Cross is a sociologist at Colorado State University who says she's found an effective approach in her course 'Social Production of Reality.'

Can a college course unteach racism?

Many of my students tell me it can. They say my course improves their tolerance toward others, allows them to put themselves in another person's shoes and makes them more willing to take action to end discrimination and inequality.

Twenty years ago, I started asking this question on my final exam: "What is one thing you've learned from this class that you'll remember long after this class is over?" Year after year, about 25% of the class says something like, "I have learned to be more tolerant of people who are different from me."

When this first started happening, I was surprised. I never once mention the word tolerance in class, nor is increasing tolerance a learning objective.

When I asked for more detail, every student detailed how the class increased awareness of their own thoughts, how they their increased effort to suspend judgment and made new efforts to listen and understand the viewpoint and experiences of others. Many also described taking new actions based on seeing their own privilege more clearly.

One student said, "I will remember that some people's reality is different and not the same as mine. I learned a lot about others culturally and maybe a glimpse of what it's like to be a minority or 'different' in some way. That has helped me to be more compassionate."

I used a survey to compare how students' attitudes changed in a variety of social science classes – not just my own. I found that student attitudes about their political ideology, empathy and race changed very little after most classes. My course stood out because attitudes related to both race and empathy improved substantially.

So what sets my course apart? I believe it is the focus on teaching students to be aware of their own thoughts and judgments and how those thoughts shape their actions.

What does your course say about race?

Rather than focus on race, the class explores theories which emphasize the social nature of reality. One example is the Thomas Theorem, which states that when people define a situation as real, then it is real in its consequences.

Take baseball. Fans may argue with the umpire's call, but we agree to give the umpire authority and so the scoreboard and history books record that call, thus making it reality. Believing that there will be a toilet paper shortage can create one if enough people believe it, even when the supply of toilet paper hasn't changed. Race, like baseball and toilet paper shortages, becomes real because of how we see it, define it and then act toward each other based on those meanings.

Sociologists Michael Omi and Howard Winant wrote, "Race is not something rooted in nature…but it is not an illusion. While it may not be real in a biological sense, race is indeed real as a social category with definite social consequences." Race is created not from our biology, but from the ways in which we understand ourselves, interact with others and build our society.

Why does 'race' feel so real?

We are constantly reinforcing the idea of race and our individual identities. While our racial identities cannot be identified by genetic uniqueness, we have taught ourselves to see race in our skin color, facial features, hair texture and culture. Race then becomes socially and culturally real, with some really unjust consequences. Blacks are 3-5 times more likely to be arrested for possession of marijuana than whites. Black women are three times more likely to die in a pregnancy-related death than white women. These facts are real, and they are produced not by biology but by social relationships, health and environmental inequalities, policies and institutional practices that treat Black men and women differently than white men and women.

We are faced with a paradox. As long as we see and label race, we then act as though it is a meaningful difference, which ulti-

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Snicker snicker

There's always that one kid in the corner; the one who's snickering, saying that anything well-intentioned is doomed to failure, and anyone with altruistic aims is a fool. Nothing will ever satisfy him, and he'll notice your shortcomings a million times over before ever acknowledging your strengths. Zaldy Dandan's editorials about the House minority bloc's anti-corruption campaign are that kid, exactly.

Yes, the election is coming up. Yes, the minority bloc members, like all politicians, seek re-election. And yes, the CNMI's previous anti-corruption campaigns weren't entirely successful in cleaning up government once and for all.

For Zaldy, that's enough to give up any hope, and to sit in the corner snickering—because look, he just found a newspaper article from 30 years ago where someone else tried to fight corruption, and look, he found some personal failing in one of the anti-corruption campaigners.

That's enough for him to sound the death knell over any hope of improving the CNMI government. Tell him you want to improve things, and he'll tell you that Stalin's genocide also started as an effort to improve things. Or that he remembers when so-and-so did this-and-this 20 years ago, and therefore we should all just give up and sit snickering in the corner, like he does.

It's an easy position to take. Sitting in the corner snickering is a lot easier than taking action for positive change.

How many years was Zaldy Dandan running a CNMI newspaper that failed to ask any difficult questions of any government officials? Why is it that an online outlet from Guam was able to uncover troves of public records of corruption in the CNMI? Kandit News was digging up stacks of papers that Zaldy never bothered to investigate over the course of years.

Zaldy talked big about opposing Fitial and Babauta. Did his publication ever do any investigative reporting? Even driving up to Capital Hill is sometimes too much work for the *Variety*. They have spent years printing the same garbage, regurgitating Torres administration press releases while blatant corruption was leaving huge paper trails right under their noses.

Who cares, right? It's Zaldy's lunch table. Sit and snicker and assure everyone that no one can do anything about anything.

An elementary school student could point out the basic grammar mistakes in every article that Zaldy is supposedly "editing." But who cares? Can't do anything. Snicker and sneer away.

Executive pay cut proposal? Zaldy points out that saving $300,000 on executive salaries won't save the CNMI's budget. Great attitude. You might also want to tell the emergency room at CHC that saving one dying person won't save all the other dying people. Might as well just not try, right?

Zaldy even throws in a jibe about the House leaders not communicating with the Senate. Because Zaldy has wiretapped the entire building and knows exactly that the House never ever communicates with the Senate. Or even if they do, it's all futile. Snicker snicker.

Unlike the Fitial and Babauta administrations, Gov. Torres and his closest friends have been subject to multiple federal search warrants. If the allegations are true, Torres' corruption is orders of magnitude bigger than anything Fitial or Babauta ever did.

But Zaldy's editorials? They only tell us that reform is a fool's errand and seeking out answers is political showboating. There's not a word of encouragement or gratitude for leaders such as those in the minority who could have very well gone with the flow and personally benefited, but instead have chosen to work in the public interest.

Sure, it's easier to snicker and dismiss. Zaldy probably has a snickering, dismissive comment for anyone who tries to improve our way of life. Then he doesn't look so bad for not doing anything but snickering.

Maybe back in the Philippines, massive public corruption is a fact of life, along with broken roads, stinking air, and dictatorial rule. Maybe back in the Philippines, there's nothing to be done about it, and anyone who tries is a fool. Maybe in the Philippines, you're better off just going with the flow. Is it any coincidence that the *Variety*'s sister company was contracted to provide "public relations" (propaganda) services to the casino? Back in the Philippines, going with the flow and cashing the checks may be the only possible way to survive.

But that's not how it is here in the Marianas—or at least, that's not how it should be. Whether Zaldy agrees or dismissively snickers, we have the rule of law here. Public officials do have to answer to citizens. And impassioned inquiries in the spirit of justice, such as those brought by the House minority bloc, can and do bring about real change.

So keep snickering, Zaldy. I won't be reading your newspaper. And I won't be voting for the hands that feed you.

Ray S. Cabrera
As Lito, Saipan

RACISM

From Page 8

mately produces unequal consequences. In contrast, if we act as though we don't see race or claim color blindness, then we are denying that race is a vital social category in our culture which shapes all our lives.

Sociologist Eduardo Bonilla Silva argued that developing empathy with others is one of the prerequisites for redefining the racial order. While the students in my class call it tolerance, their descriptions are better named empathy.

How can one semester matter?

One semester is all it takes to learn to become aware of your own thoughts and to actively choose to change your judgments and build a new capacity for empathy. When we endeavor to deeply understand other people's experiences, we also build the capacity and will for new actions. Like all things, it takes practice to make it a habit. All semester I tell the students, "In every moment, every interaction, you have a choice, a choice to repeat the scripts you were taught and reinforce our current social rules and experiences, or to choose a new path and create a new reality."

[Understand new developments in science, health and technology, each week. Subscribe to The Conversation's science newsletter.]

Does the color of the instructor matter?

Teaching about race and racism brings challenges for all instructors regardless of their own race. What's more, it is problematic to leave this challenging work only to instructors of color, who are a minority in American higher education.

Building trust and being vulnerable, telling stories of my own mistakes and growth, makes it possible for a white woman like me to talk about race in ways that help white students not feel defensive and allow students of color to feel safe. I can't say I've always been perfect, but my students have been brave enough to teach me and learn with me to build our capacity for empathy and action.

This article is republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons license. Read the original article here: https://theconversation.com/can-a-college-course-teach-students-to-unlearn-racism-143588. The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.

US

From Page 8

ployers, health care providers and insurers is needed to boost awareness and find new, creative ways to make getting the shot easy and convenient. For example, the Star Tribune Editorial Board would like to see more drive-through clinics while weather permits. And are there mobile options that could reach far-flung workers and their families?

The shot is safe and usually covered without out-of-pocket expenses by insurance. Employers and insurers need to drive that message home and encourage parents to ensure that their children are vaccinated, too. Another critical reminder: Kids under 8 getting the flu immunization for the first-time or who have had only one dose previously need a second dose during the same flu season for full protection.

Research indicates that the flu vaccine can reduce children's risk of being hospitalized for complications from the virus by a stunning 74%. Stinchfield, from Children's Minnesota, advises parents to include flu preparations for their little ones as part of their Halloween activities.

"If you're shopping for or making kids' costumes or getting candy," Stinchfield said, "make sure they have their flu vaccine."

(c)2020 *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis)

A gag rule for athletes? NBA players are too American for that

America has always had a complicated relationship with its athletic heroes. Fans cheer them and implore them to be role models for impressionable youngsters. Companies pay millions for their endorsement.

Last week, NBA players staged a brief work stoppage to draw attention to racial inequality and police misconduct. The protest, in the wake of the shooting of Jacob Blake in Wisconsin, sparked the WNBA, MLB, NHL and MLS to temporarily suspend play, too. This is a protest in the best traditions of American political protests.

No single protest is going to change the world. But the power and commitment to call out injustice will. There's a long and proud history of Black athletes and civil rights advocacy, sometimes at great personal cost. Boxer Muhammad Ali, football legend Jim Brown, tennis great Arthur Ashe, basketball Hall of Famers Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Bill Russell, who pulled himself out of an NBA game in the early 1960s to protest Black players being denied service at the team hotel. In the spirit of the late congressman and civil rights leader John Lewis, this is "good trouble."

Some Black athletes have paid high prices for speaking truth to power. Track and field stars John Carlos and Tommie Smith were unemployable after raising their hand in salutes during the presentation of their medals at the summer Olympics in 1968 to protest poverty and racial injustice. Former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick is still enduring backlash four years after his protest against police brutality and racial inequality was unfairly was conflated with disrespect for the American flag.

But progress doesn't come cheaply, for if it did, the nation would not be having this moral reckoning once again. Black athletes would not feel compelled to speak out, and Black parents wouldn't have to have the Talk with their young sons.

Black athletes should not be expected to "shut up and dribble" and be silent on political and societal injustices, a demand that suggests that their main value to society is to entertain. These athletes are citizens, and part of an America for whom racial issues have been daily concerns since the African slave trade touched the shores of what would become this nation. They have a right to exercise their free speech as citizens.

Racial inequality and police brutality remain stains on our democracy, and these athletes should be applauded for what is so often demanded of them—being role models. All Americans—not just those whose hue has made these issues their daily burden—need to make justice a universal moral imperative. Change requires righteous outrage and the moral courage to say "enough is enough."

When Russell boycotted that game decades ago, his white teammates on the Boston Celtics played. Years later, teammate Bob Cousy told Russell that "looking back on it, I should have done more to share your pain. I'm sorry I didn't."

Shut up and dribble?

No, speak up and be counted.

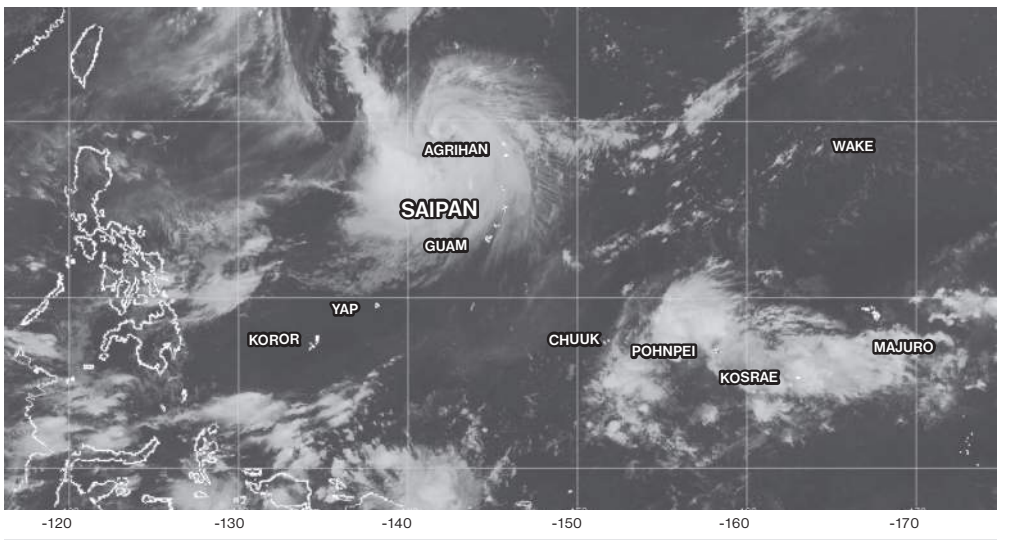
(c)2020 *The Dallas Morning News*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.
89° 77°	89° 78°	86° 76°	86° 76°	86° 76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 10:55 AM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Improved weather for today based on satellite, surface observations and model guidance. High clouds will continue to drift over the islands from the north as Tropical Storm Haishen sits well northwest of Guam/Saipan. A Special Weather Statement was issued for islands of the far northern CNMI as Haishen is centered just west of them. Showers may return to Guam/Rota/Tinian/Saipan tonight as a narrow band of low-level convergence tries to assemble. More details in the afternoon forecast package.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:26 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:26 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:25 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:40 AM	7:20 PM
Friday	-	7:27 AM	7:56 PM
Saturday	-	8:14 AM	8:31 PM
Sunday	-	9:00 AM	9:06 PM
Monday	-	9:47 AM	9:42 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	57° / 48°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	79° / 64°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 74°
London	Showers	70° / 52°
Los Angeles	Sunny	97° / 77°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	59° / 55°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°
New York	Mostly Sunny	73° / 57°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	84° / 70°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 54°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	81° / 68°
Rome	Sunny	82° / 70°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	84° / 68°
San Francisco	Sunny	83° / 63°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	82° / 63°
Tokyo	Rain	77° / 64°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	73° / 59°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:32 AM	LOW TIDE	0.93
7:49 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.90
2:40 PM	LOW TIDE	0.20
9:00 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.86

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4
UA117	7:50am	8:30am	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4
UA174	6:15am	6:56am	6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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Business

Big sale at Kensington's Luxury Gallery

Most of the retail shops om Saipan have been closed since March because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to this local residents have been having hard time finding a place to purchase special gifts for their love ones or a special reward for themselves.

Luxury Gallery at Kensington Hotel provides you an option and alternative to make your wish come true.

From classic luxury brands, to trendy brands, Luxury Gallery offers steady sellers picked by specialty buyers including world renowned brands Gucci, Burberry, Prada, Valentino, Balenciaga, Dior, Fendi, Mandarina Duck, and more.

From Sept. 5 to 7, 10am to 6pm, you can enjoy up to 70% off and amazing promos with special benefits. Over $100 purchase, guest can receive one free Ice American with 30% discount coupon from OHAS bakery. With more than $300 purchase, additionally, two swimming pool day pass and one raffle ticket for one night stay at Premium Deluxe Ocean View Room will be given away.

Luxury Gallery is located at Kensington Hotel lobby floor. For more information, call 322-3311 (10am-6pm). ***(PR)***

Luxury Gallery, located at the Kensington Hotel lobby floor, is having a big sale starting Saturday. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chamber of Commerce backs freshmen House Dems, marking shift

WASHINGTON (AP)— The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has decided to endorse 23 freshmen House Democrats in this fall's elections, a bipartisan move by an organization that has long leaned strongly toward Republicans.

The country's largest business group is also endorsing 29 freshmen House Republicans, said a person familiar with the organization's decision who described the actions. Even so, the decision has prompted internal divisions, with some state chamber officials criticizing the national group's decision to back freshmen Democrats in their areas.

The House freshmen the chamber is endorsing include several who face tough reelections, such as Reps. Abby Finkenauer and Cindy Axne of Iowa, Andy Kim of New Jersey, Xochitl Torres Small of New Mexico, Anthony Brindisi of New York, Kendra Horn of Oklahoma, Joe Cunningham of South Carolina and Elaine Luria and Abigail Spanberger of Virginia.

The chamber has a long track record of using most of its political might to back Republican candidates, especially with money. But the organization has had to recalibrate its tactics as the once-reliably pro-business GOP has taken a more populist, conservative hue on issues like immigration and trade, reflecting the views of President Donald Trump and hard-right tea party adherents whose numbers in Congress have grown.

In earlier indications of the chamber's more bipartisan approach, it has boosted some campaign contributions to Democrats and changed how it assigns publicly released scores about whether lawmakers help business, now factoring in whether they try reaching across party lines.

The moves come as Democrats seem all but certain to continue running the House after November's elections. Any support for Democrats helps the chamber maintain lines of communication with them, especially as growing numbers of progressive Democrats in Congress makes it harder for business groups to find allies in the party.

Democrats in tough reelection fights can cite the chamber's backing "as a sort of Good Housekeeping seal of approval," said Liam Donovan, a lobbyist and former GOP political operative.

The chamber is also endorsing freshmen Democratic Reps. Greg Stanton of Arizona; Josh Harder, TJ Cox and Harley Rouda of California; Sharice Davids of Kansas; David Trone of Maryland; Haley Stevens of Michigan; Angie Craig and Dean Phillips of Minnesota; Susie Lee of Nevada; Antonio Delgado of New York; Colin Allred and Lizzie Fletcher of Texas and Ben McAdams of Utah.

The person describing the chamber's endorsements would only do so on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the moves publicly. The decision by the chamber, which issued no statement about the matter, was first reported by The Hill newspaper.

Facebook, Twitter suspend Russian network ahead of election

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)— Facebook said Tuesday that it removed a small network of accounts and pages linked to Russia's Internet Research Agency, the "troll factory" that has used social media accounts to sow political discord in the U.S. since the 2016 presidential election.

Twitter also suspended five related accounts. The company said the tweets from these Russia-linked accounts"were low quality and spammy" and that most received few, if any, likes or retweets.

The people behind the accounts recruited "unwitting" freelance journalists to post in English and Arabic, mainly targeting left-leaning audiences. Facebook said Tuesday the network's activity focused on the U.S., U.K., Algeria and Egypt and other English-speaking countries and countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

The company said it started investigating the network based on information from the FBI about its off-Facebook activities. The network was in the early stages of development, Facebook added, and saw "nearly no engagement" on Facebook before it was removed. The network consisted of 13 Facebook accounts and two pages. About 14,000 accounts followed one or more of the pages, though the English-language page had a little over 200 followers, Facebook said.

Still, its presence points to ongoing Russian efforts to disrupt the U.S. election and sow political discord in an already divided country. To evade detection, the people behind the network recruited Americans to do their bidding, likely unknowingly, both as journalists and as people authorized to purchase political advertisements in the U.S.

Facebook said the people behind the network posted about global events ranging from racial justice in the U.S. and the U.K., NATO, the QAnon conspiracy, President Donald Trump and Joe Biden's presidential campaign. The network spent about $480 on advertising on Facebook, primarily in U.S. dollars. However, Facebook said less than $2 worth of those ads targeted the U.S.

The network's posts directed people to a website called PeaceData, which claims to be a global news organization that, according to a report by research firm Graphika, "took a left-wing stance, opposing what it portrayed as Western imperialism and the excesses of capitalism."

The FBI said in a statement Tuesday that it provided information to the platforms "to better protect against threats to the nation's security and our democratic processes."

"While technology companies independently make decisions regarding the content of their platforms and the safety of their members, the FBI is actively engaged with our federal partners, election officials, and the private sector to mitigate foreign threats to our nation's security and our elections," the statement said.

Separately, Twitter said Tuesday it will start adding context to its trending section, which shows some of the most popular topics on the service at any given moment. Experts and even Twitter's own employees have expressed concerns that the trending section can be gamed to spread misinformation and abuse.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
28,645.66	3,526.65	11,939.67
+215.61	+26.34	+164.21
.76%	.75%	1.39%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.3595	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7501	Russian Ruble	72.5074
British Pound	0.7473	Indian Rupee	72.7308	Singapore Dollar	1.3603
Canadian Dollar	1.3064	Japanese Yen	106.0660	South Korean Won	1164.46
Chinese Yuan	6.7389	Malaysian Ringgit	4.1126	Swiss Franc	0.9108
Euro	0.8404	New Zealand Dollar	1.4744	Taiwan Dollar	28.8433
		Philippine Peso	47.7762	Thailand Baht	31.2070

Nation

Trump spins baseless tale of 'thugs' flying to protests

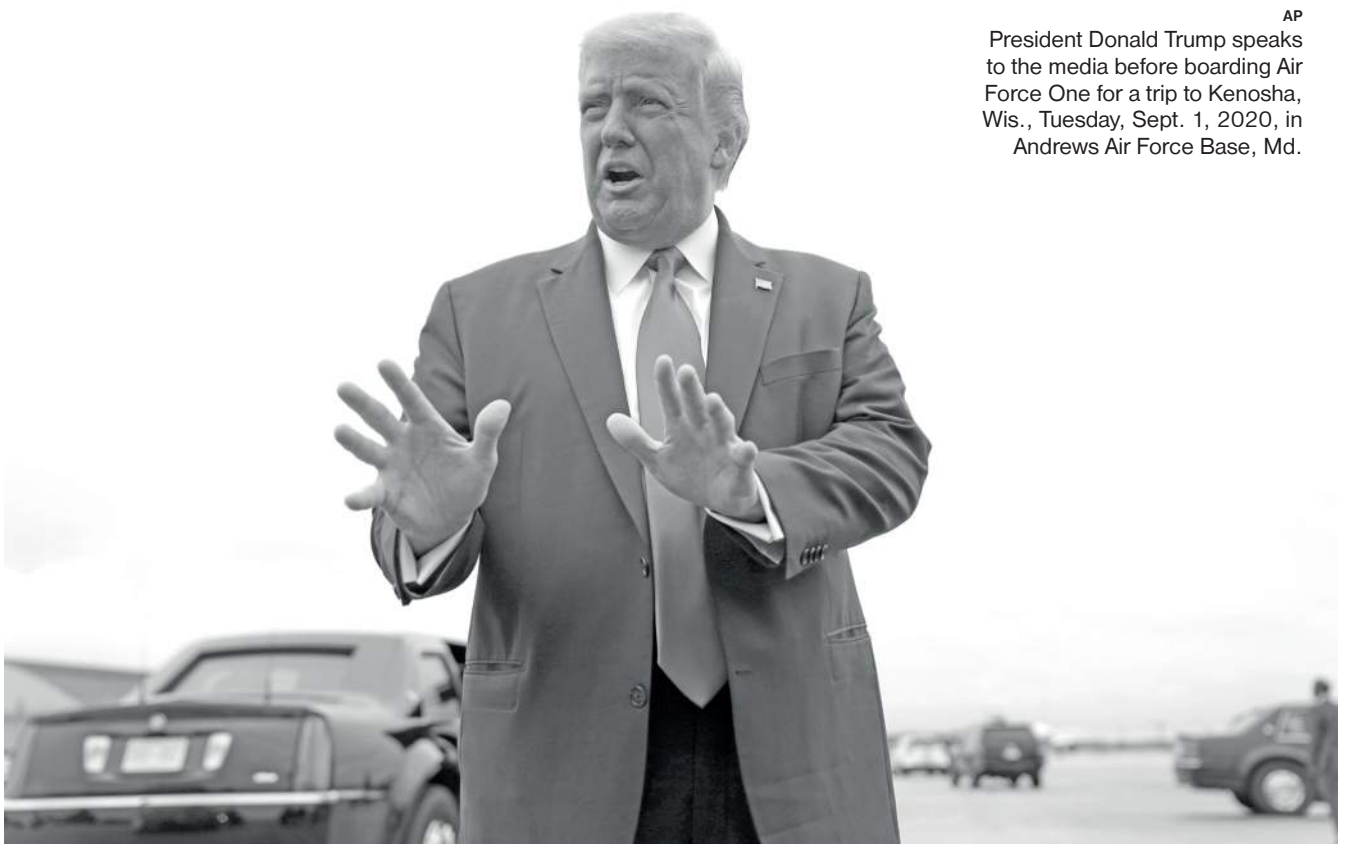
CHICAGO (AP)—President Donald Trump is recycling a baseless conspiracy theory to claim that recent protests have been orchestrated by powerful people in "dark shadows" intent on undermining his reelection prospects.

The claims first took root on Facebook and Twitter earlier this year after racial justice protests swelled across the country following the deaths of Black Americans in police custody. Thousands of social media users shared posts suggesting a covert network was coordinating the protests and rioters were descending on communities across the country.

Trump appeared to amplify those unfounded conspiracy theories in an interview with Fox News host Laura Ingraham that aired Monday night, suggesting that protests in Washington during the Republican National Convention were orchestrated by unspecified forces.

"We had somebody get on a plane from a certain city this weekend. And in the plane, it was almost completely loaded with thugs wearing these dark uniforms, black uniforms with gear and this and that," said Trump, adding that the matter is under investigation.

When asked by reporters Tuesday for additional details on his assertion, Trump said someone else witnessed the activity and he would have to check to see if that person was willing to speak with news media.



AP
President Donald Trump speaks to the media before boarding Air Force One for a trip to Kenosha, Wis., Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2020, in Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

Vice President Mike Pence was asked in an interview Tuesday evening to explain what the president was talking about.

"Well, I think what the president's referring to is actually what we heard in many of the cities. I know in Detroit there were a large number of arrests several weeks ago and the vast majority of people were from out of state. The same thing occurred in arrests that took place in recent cities," Pence said on Fox News Channel's "Special Report with Bret Baier."

"Look, there's something going on here, where the radical left—these anarchists and antifa—are moving people around the country, and it's one of the reasons that the Justice Department is looking into where is the funding for this coming from? ... We're vigorously investigating where this is being organized from."

He said during recent rioting that occurred in the nation's capital, the administration "heard some organization was pre-positioning assets and resources" around the city.

The president has a history of elevating online conspiracy theories from his powerful podium, sometimes amplifying Twitter posts to his 85.6 million followers or dropping references to debunked claims in interviews and appearances. As the November election approaches, he's been particularly focused on the unproven notion that widespread protests against racist policing are being coordinated and driven by shadowy forces intent on defeating him.

Trump is picking up on unproven conspiracy theories that began spreading earlier this year during protests for racial justice. One of the first public Facebook posts suggesting a similar conspiracy theory appears to have been made in May when Idaho resident Russell D. Wade wrote on Facebook that a plane was transporting protesters from Seattle to Boise, Idaho.

"Be ready for attacks downtown and residential areas," Wade wrote in a post that has been shared more than 3,500 times. Wade, who lost a bid for local sheriff earlier this year, urged his followers to arm themselves. A social media message sent to Wade on Tuesday was not immediately returned.

Local police departments from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to Payette County, Idaho, were forced to knock down similar social media rumors in June that "busloads" of rioters were coming to town. Other social media posts claimed that throngs of "antifa," a term for leftist militants, were plotting to violently disrupt cities and towns.

In Michigan, a limousine businessman had to refute online rumors that his buses were purchased by liberal financier George Soros to coordinate protests after Facebook users manipulated images of his white charter buses to show the words "Soros Riot Dance Squad" emblazoned on the sides.

Mnuchin says Trump still wants virus deal with Democrats

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pressed by Democrats to quickly negotiate a new coronavirus relief package, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Tuesday the administration remains willing to work on a bipartisan agreement to help small businesses, the unemployed, children and schools. Democratic leaders in Congress are holding it up with hardened positions, he said.

"Let's move forward on a bipartisan basis on points we can agree upon," Mnuchin urged at a hearing by the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis. "The president and I want to move forward."

Mnuchin made the case that the economy's recovery has strengthened in recent weeks, citing improved consumer spending, growth in manufacturing and a rebounding housing market. It's the failure of some states to reopen activity that is holding back the economy, he said.

But Democrats insisted that dire economic conditions persist for many. "Millions of Americans are now facing eviction, debt and hunger," said the panel's chairman, Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C. "As the pandemic drags on, states, cities and businesses are warning that more layoffs may be coming."

The subcommittee's Democratic staff, meanwhile, said it has identified lapses pointing to possible fraud and abuse in a signature piece of the administration's relief effort, the $660 billion-plus small business loan program—including more than $1 billion awarded to businesses that received multiple loans.

The staff investigators said in a report that a lack of government oversight and accountability for the program "may have led to billions of dollars being diverted to fraud, waste and abuse, rather than reaching small businesses truly in need."

With bipartisan agreement, Congress enacted an unprecedented $2.3 trillion pandemic rescue package in March. Now the Trump administration and top congressional Democrats have been in a months-long stalemate over new relief legislation, with the two sides trillions of dollars apart. Lawmakers left Washington for the August recess without an agreement.

The impasse left millions of jobless people without a $600-per-week pandemic bonus unemployment benefit that had helped families stay afloat, left state and local governments seeking fiscal relief high and dry, and held back a more than $100 billion school aid package.

An estimated 27 million people are receiving some form of unemployment benefits, according to the Labor Department, though the figure may be inflated by double-counting by states.

Court shields Trump tax returns, likely until after election

NEW YORK (AP)—A federal appeals court Tuesday granted President Donald Trump a temporary reprieve in the long-running fight over his tax returns, barring Manhattan's top prosecutor from getting the records while Trump's lawyers embark on another bid to overturn the subpoena seeking them.

With a temporary stay in place and Trump expecting a return to the Supreme Court, it's unlikely that the case will be resolved or any tax returns will be turned over before the November election. The three-judge panel ruled after hearing brief arguments from both sides.

Trump's lawyers argued that a stay keeping the tax returns under wraps will protect him from irreparable harm—such as leaks from secret grand jury proceedings—while they appeal a lower-court ruling two weeks ago that granted Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr.'s office access to Trump's tax returns.

A lawyer for Vance's office argued that further delays to the enforcement of a subpoena issued nearly a year ago would only hamper their investigation, which he said covers a wide range of business dealings connected to Trump's company, the Trump Organization.

One of the three judges on the panel, John M. Walker Jr., said that the subpoenas cover 11 entities engaged in business dealings as far away as Europe and Dubai.

"The question at this juncture is quite simple but also quite important," Trump lawyer William Consovoy argued at the hearing. "Will the president be given an opportunity to appeal that ruling before his personal records are disclosed to the grand jury and the status quo is irrevocably changed?"

Trump lawyer Jay Sekulow said they were pleased with the ruling. A message seeking comment was left with Vance's spokesperson.

Trump's lawyers appealed to the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last month after a district court judge rejected their renewed efforts to invalidate a subpoena issued to his accounting firm. A hearing on the merits of the appeal is scheduled for Sept. 25.

With Trump's side certain to appeal an unfavorable ruling, "Vance is unlikely to see the records soon," University of Richmond law school professor Carl Tobias said.

The Supreme Court ruled in July that the presidency in and of itself doesn't shield Trump from Vance's investigation, but the high court returned the case to U.S. District Judge Victor Marrero's courtroom to allow Trump's lawyers to raise other concerns about the subpoena.

At that stage, Trump's lawyers argued that the subpoena was issued in bad faith, overly broad, might have been politically motivated and amounted to harassment. Marrero rejected those claims. Consovoy told the judges Tuesday that he thought the investigation was an "arbitrary fishing expedition."

Trump has blasted the quest for his financial records as a "continuation of the most disgusting witch hunt in the history of our country."

World

Iran nuclear deal members resolved to preserve agreement

BERLIN (AP)—Representatives of Iran and the world powers working to save the nuclear deal with Tehran agreed Tuesday in Vienna to do everything possible to preserve the landmark 2015 agreement in their first meeting since the United States announced a bid to restore United Nations sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

Helga Schmid, the European Union representative who chaired the meeting, said afterwards on Twitter that the "participants are united in resolve to preserve the #IranDeal and find a way to ensure full implementation of the agreement despite current challenges."

Iranian representative Abbas Araghchi did not comment after the day of talks, but ahead of the meeting said the U.S. move would "definitely be an important discussion" topic with delegates from France, Germany, Britain, Russia and China.

President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out of the so-called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action unilaterally in 2018, saying that it was a bad deal and needed to be renegotiated.

The deal promises Iran economic incentives in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program, but with the reinstatement of American sanctions, the other nations have been struggling to provide Iran the assistance it seeks.

Complicating the matter, the U.S. announced recently it was triggering a 30-day process to restore virtually all U.N. sanctions on Iran, invoking a "snapback" mechanism that is part of the JCPOA agreement. Washington's argument is that as an original participant it still has that right, even though it left the deal.

Other signatories to the JCPOA agreement have rejected that argument, setting the stage for a potential crisis in the Security Council later this month, with the U.S. claiming to have re-imposed sanctions and most of the rest of the world saying the Trump administration's action is illegal and ignoring it.

After U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo traveled to the U.N. to invoke snapback on Aug. 20, Indonesia's U.N. Ambassador Dian Triansyah Djani, whose country held the rotating council presidency, said there was overwhelming opposition in the 15-member body to the U.S. position. He said it was unlikely there would be any action on Washington's demand.

Niger's U.N. Ambassador Abdou Abarry, who took over the rotating council presidency on Tuesday, said: "Up until there would be maybe new facts, and I haven't seen any yet, we are staying at the level of the Security Council aligned with this position as expressed by the president, ambasador Djani."

Chinese representative Fu Cong told reporters after the Vienna meeting that the member countries all agreed that the U.S. no longer has "the legal ground or legal standing to trigger snapback" and that in China's view Washington was using it to "try to sabotage or even kill the JCPOA."

He suggested the other countries were also not prepared to "just wait and see" whether Trump is reelected in November.

"The U.S., even though it is a superpower, is just one country," Fu said. "So other countries are moving on."

The Russian delegate to the JCPOA, Mikhail Ulyanov, took a swipe at the U.S. ahead of the meeting, tweeting that Tuesday's talks involved "participation of all (not self-proclaimed) participants of the nuclear deal."

Afterward, he tweeted that the meeting "demonstrated that its participants are fully committed to the nuclear deal and are determined to do their best to preserve it."

Duterte orders customs chief to shoot, kill drug smugglers

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte publicly ordered the country's top customs official to shoot and kill drug smugglers in one of his most overt threats during a deadly four-year campaign that has been the centerpiece of his presidency.

Duterte has steadfastly denied authorizing extrajudicial killings but has repeatedly and openly threatened drug dealers with death. He and the national police, which has led enforcement of his anti-drug campaign, have said most of the suspects killed by police during the campaign fought back and threatened the lives of law enforcers.

Duterte gave the order to Bureau of Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero in televised remarks from a Cabinet meeting on the coronavirus pandemic Monday night.

Guerrero, a retired army general and former military chief of staff, was not present when Duterte spoke, but the president said he met Guerrero and two other officials earlier Monday at the presidential palace in Manila.

"Drug is still flowing inside the country through customs," Duterte said, adding he has earlier approved Guerrero's request for firearms. "I approved the purchase of firearms and until now you haven't killed even one? I told him, 'Shape up.'"

"I told him straight, 'Drugs is still flowing in. I'd like you to kill there ... anyway, I'll back you up and you won't get jailed. If it's drugs, you shoot and kill. That's the arrangement," Duterte said without elaborating.

More than 5,700 mostly poor drug suspects have been killed under Duterte's anti-drug crackdown, which has alarmed human rights groups and Western governments and sparked an examination of alleged crimes against humanity at the International Criminal Court. Duterte has vowed to continue the deadly crackdown in his remaining two years in power.

Human Rights Watch called Duterte's order "savage."

Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director of the U.S.-based rights group, said the U.N. Human Rights Council, which convenes this month, should establish an independent international investigation into the killings in the Philippines.

"The continuing carnage also explains why the international community led by the European Union needs to act decisively on this ongoing rights catastrophe in the Philippines and not be swayed by the government's falsehoods about its record," Robertson said.

Human rights groups have said their investigations showed some suspects were killed mercilessly then police officers altered the scene and placed firearms in the victims' hands to make it appear that they fought back. Police have said the rights groups and critics should file criminal complaints in court if they have evidence against officers.

Cuba closes off Havana to stamp out spread of coronavirus

HAVANA (AP)—Cuban authorities ordered a strict 15-day lockdown of Havana on Tuesday seeking to stamp out the low-level but persistent spread of the novel coronavirus in the capital.

Aggressive anti-virus measures including closing down air travel have virtually eliminated COVID-19 in Cuba with the exception of Havana, where cases have surged from a handful a day to dozens daily over the last month.

Starting Tuesday, Havana is under a 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew. Most stores are barred from selling to shoppers from outside the immediate neighborhood in order to discourage people from moving around the city.

Some Havana residents complained that the measures were complicating the already difficult task of buying food in a city stricken by constant shortages and endless lines for a limited supply of basic goods.

"It's a good cause, getting rid of all of this (coronavirus), but in the end they aren't going to get rid of the lines," said Josuel Suárez, a 26-year-old engineer. "The situation is already difficult, and on top of that these restrictive measures, and people have to eat, to resolve their problems."

Others welcomed the tighter control.

"Many people don't pay attention to medical advice. This is how we're going to resolve this situation, which isn't easy," said Rosa Rojas, an 80-year-old homemaker. "I go out because I need to, but there are people in the street with no reason, drinking rum and hanging out in parks without a face mask."

Police stationed on every road leaving Havana are supposed to stop everyone who doesn't have a special permit to travel, meant to be issued only in extraordinary circumstances. Some provinces that saw no new cases for weeks have begun detecting them in recent days, often linked to travelers from Havana.

The start of in-person classes was also indefinitely delayed in Havana, even as schools open normally in the rest of Cuba.

The island of 11 million people has reported slightly more than 4,000 confirmed coronavirus cases, with fewer than 100 deaths, one of the lowest rates in the region during the pandemic.

The government made face masks obligatory in the early stages of its pandemic response and in the first months of the crisis police aggressively fined and even jailed people for violations.

That stance slackened somewhat as Havana moved out of the first, strictest phase of lockdown in July, public transportation restarted and people returned to work. Cases began to climb, and the capital province returned to phase zero last month.

But the measures failed to brake the rise of coronavirus infections, as authorities bemoaned widespread violations of requirements including wearing face masks, avoiding large gatherings and maintaining social distance.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

† Gloria Quitano Tenorio

BORN TO LIFE: MAY 14, 1970 CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE: AUGUST 26, 2020

In Her New Life, She Will Be Welcomed by Her:

Father: † Ramon Torres Quitano
Stepfather: † Jesus Magofna Sablan

Her Memories Will Life Forever in the Hearts of her:

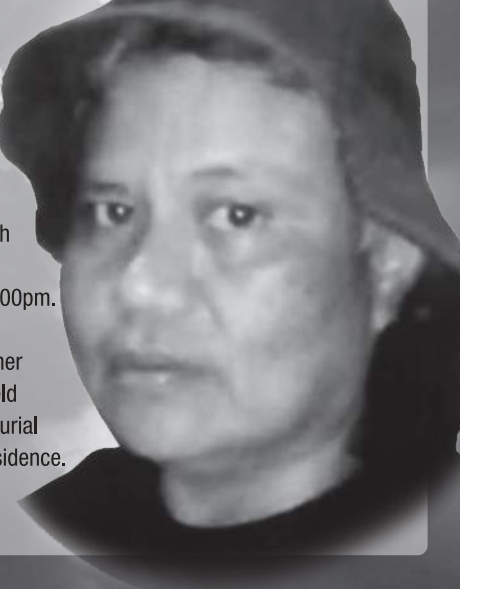
Mother: Damiana Dingilus Quitano
Husband: Edward C. Tenorio
Children: Dramina Q. Sablan & Chris C. Camacho
Grandchildren: Ramon, Christopher, Tano); Ramon Jose Q. Sablan & Joedy San Nicolas Miquet Edrad Q. Tenorio

Brothers/Sisters:
Robert I. Quitano; Ronald I. Quitano; Manet A. Sablan; Vicente A. Sablan; Julita A. Sablan; Vivian A. Sablan; Cecilia A. Sablan; Jesse I. Sablan; Frank I. Sablan; Jose I. Sablan; Urbalau I. Sablan

Friend By Heart: Peter A. Castro

Daily Mass is being offered at Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag at 6:00 pm. Rosary is being held at her residence in Tanapag (across Mobil Gas Station) at 7:00pm.

Viewing will be on September 3, 2020 (Thursday) at her residence beginning at 8:00am. Final Mass will be held on September 3, 2020 at 11:00am, followed by her burial at the Tanapag Cemetery. Reception will be at her residence.



Environment

LET'S TALK CRAP: How fecal waste contaminates CNMI waters

The Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan beach in Garapan.

IVA MAURIN

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Three weeks ago, Travis Spaeth spent his Thursday evening swimming at the beach in Garapan. Next thing he knew, he had a swollen foot, fighting an infection.

He had a small almost-healed cut on his ankle when he swam at the beach. A day after, it became sore, and then got completely engorged and painful a few days later, and his whole foot began to swell up.

Spaeth, who is an engineer and works as the Safe Drinking Water Program manager at the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, is not the only one. While not 100% certain that he got it from the waters, he said he knows of at least one other person who experienced the same, along with a pretty severe infection. And, there could be more.

"I ended up having to get on some medication to fight of the infection as my foot had swelled up so bad due to the infection," he added.

Could it possibly be the waters? BECQ samples the beaches on Saipan's west coast weekly for fecal bacteria contamination, and issues a red flag advisory when levels exceed the standards recommended for recreational activities, such as swimming or fishing. Water quality sampling in the area last week showed that fecal bacteria was 15 times higher than the safe level for recreation.

In a joint study the bureau did with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the American University, published in September last year, fecal bacteria indicators were found to be widespread throughout the coastal waters of Saipan.

Higher levels are found along the shore of the central Saipan Lagoon, particularly around the Garapan fishing dock, as well as the drainage area of the Fiesta hotel.

The study also showed that most fecal bacteria found at Fiesta hotel's beach is human in origin, with a significantly smaller amount of fecal bacteria coming from dogs. Contact with human fecal bacteria has the most potential to make people sick.

In an interview, TanHoldings vice president Alex Sablan stressed the corporation's commitment to providing quality service to its patrons, and stated, "The water quality of our pristine beach is important to us and we would want to work with the government to do our part to ensure a positive experience for our guests." Fiesta Resort & Spa is a subsidiary of TanHoldings Corp.

During heavy rains, the Department of Public Works closely coordinates with the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality in monitoring the overflow from the drainage near Fiesta.

IVA MAURIN

Fecal bacteria on the beach?

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, fecal indicator bacteria, such as enterococci, live in the intestinal tracts of warm-blooded animals, including humans, and its presence in waterbodies could mean possible contamination by fecal waste.

Its presence mean that there could be disease-causing bacteria and viruses in the waters, which can make swimmers, or anyone who contacts the beach, or eat raw fish or shellfish, to get sick, and possibly get diseases or infections of the skin, eyes, ears, and the respiratory tract.

Directly defecating while swimming is not the only way fecal bacteria could get to the waters.

They can also come from leaking septic systems, storm water runoff, sewage dumped from boats, animal and wildlife waste, improper sewage, wastewater treatment plant effluent, or runoffs from manure storage areas, and can also come from plants, sand, soil and sediments.

A separate study also attributed fecal contamination at the Fiesta drainage from sanitary sewer overflow, and runoff from roads and construction/maintenance during rain events.

Sewers overwhelmed with infiltration, especially during large rain events, can cause an overflow, which gets washed down to the ocean.

Government agencies, such as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Department of Public Works, have facilitated tests to check if building sewers are accidentally connected to the storm drains. During heavy rains, DPW closely coordinates with BECQ in monitoring the overflow from the drainage near Fiesta.

What can you do to help?

Aside from stating the obvious, and that is, to not defecate on the beach, and to not let animals do it either, BECQ offers the following easy tips that everyone can also do to help.

1 For the average homeowner, don't put oil and grease down the drain. Doing so clogs the sewage system, and when the system gets clogged, the pumps can no longer work the sewage treatment system, and this could lead to an overflow.

When the rain comes, sewage overflow gets washed down the street, or mixes with the rainwater, draining the sewage down to the ocean, especially over at Fiesta because there's a storm water outfall.

2 If you're on a septic system, see if there is a sewer line within a certain distance to your house, and hook up to the sewer system. This way, your wastes would go to the wastewater treatment plant instead of into your yard.

3 For small livestock farmers, there are grant programs through USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Science, that could provide for farm septic systems, wastewater holding tanks with regular pump out, or dry little piggeries for composting waste.

4 If you see a potential overflow or any water pollution, report it to BECQ so the issue can be addressed head on. You may contact their office at 664-8500.

5 To help disseminate information and resolve this fecal bacteria issue on CNMI waters, please help educate others and pass this information to those who might need it too.

Now well after his infection, Spaeth is calling on the government to continue to reduce or eliminate all sewer overflows, and for all storm drains to be tested to ensure no sewer lines are accidentally connected to them.

As for the public, he advises everyone to be careful when swimming in the ocean, especially near drainage channels and after heavy rain.

"Always be mindful of minor cuts or abrasions that allow bacteria to enter the body and cause infections… and be mindful of not littering, clean up all areas that may or may not lead to contaminating water ways, where people can be exposed through storm water runoff."

Life & Style

This combination photo shows, from left, Carrie Underwood, Eric Church, Luke Combs, Keith Urban and Miranda Lambert, who were nominated for Entertainer of the Year for the 54th Annual CMA Awards on Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2020. AP

Miranda Lambert leads CMA noms, Luke Combs' streak continues

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country star Miranda Lambert turns her "Wildcard" into an ace as she's the leading nominee at the 2020 Country Music Association Awards, including her first entertainer of the year nomination in five years.

The CMAs announced Tuesday that Lambert earned seven nominations. The Grammy winner was pushed by the success of songs like "Bluebird," her first country airplay No. 1 in years, as well as positive reviews of her smart and sassy "Wildcard" album. Lambert—who has won 13 CMAs throughout her career—makes history this year, breaking the record for most nominations by a female artist with 55 overall nods.

She's followed by Luke Combs, who continues his streak of success as one of country music's biggest streaming artists with six nominations, including his first for entertainer of the year. Combs earned his first all-genre No. 1 album last year with "What You See Is What You Get," which had the largest streaming week ever for a country album with 74 million on-demand streams.

"It's pretty crazy. It's been shocking to say the least," Combs said of his entertainer of the year nod, which comes two years after he was named new artist of the year. "You're kind of up in the big leagues."

Carrie Underwood joins Combs and Lambert in the entertainer of the year category, along with Keith Urban and Eric Church. Garth Brooks, who won last year, recently announced he no longer wanted to be nominated for entertainer of the year because it was time for others to win.

Combs' nominations include album, single and male vocalist of the year. He's nominated twice in the song of the year category for his own track, "Even Though I'm Leaving," and for co-writing the Carly Pearce-Lee Brice duet "I Hope You're Happy Now."

"It's a dream come true for somebody that writes their own stuff," said Combs. "Having won that award last year was just really really really special."

The CMA Awards will be held Nov. 11 in Nashville.

Dan + Shay's Dan Smyers has six nominations, including four he shares with bandmate Shay Mooney and three with pop star Justin Bieber for their crossover hit "10,000 Hours." Smyers earned individual nominations for his work as a producer on the song. These are the first CMA nominations for Bieber, who won a CMT Music Award in 2011 for "That Should Be Me" with Rascal Flatts.

Other top nominees include Maren Morris, who scored five nominations including song and single of the year for her love song, "The Bones." Her track became the longest-running No. 1 on Billboard's Hot country songs chart by a solo female artist since Taylor Swift's "We Are Never Getting Back Together."

Meals on heels: San Francisco drag queens deliver amid virus

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)–These divas deliver.

Drag queens don their colorful wigs, elaborate makeup and knee-high stiletto boots, but instead of stepping on a stage, they're putting on a face covering, grabbing a takeout bag and bringing their musical numbers to fans' doorsteps in San Francisco.

The Oasis nightclub is turning the boring dinner blues into "Meals on Heels," dispatching drag queens like Amoura Teese and Kochina Rude to bring food, cocktails and socially distant lip-synching performances to people during the coronavirus pandemic.

On a recent evening, Rude delivered dinner to Kelsie Costa and her family in the city's Marina District and then lip-synched the drag show classic "Finally" by CeCe Peniston.

"There's not a lot to do these days with shelter in place and COVID and all that," Costa said. "So gotta spice it up somehow. It's really fun."

Ed Sheeran and his wife Cherry announce birth of daughter Lyra

LONDON (AP)—Ed Sheeran and his wife, Cherry, have announced the birth of their daughter, Lyra Antarctica Seaborn Sheeran.

The singer-songwriter said in an Instagram post that the couple's "beautiful and healthy daughter" was born last week.

"We are completely in love with her. Both mum and baby are doing amazing and we are on cloud nine over here," he wrote.

Sheeran, 29, and long-time girlfriend Cherry Seaborn married last year. Sheeran and Seaborn, 28, met at primary school in eastern England and announced their engagement in 2018.

At the end of 2019, Sheeran announced he was taking a break from work and social media after two years of touring in support of his best-selling album "Divide."

Kanye West sues to be listed on West Virginia ballot

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)—Rapper Kanye West has sued the West Virginia Secretary of State's Office after being told his bid to get on the ballot for president came up short on qualified signatures.

Secretary of State Mac Warner's office told news outlets last month that West needed 7,144 signatures from registered voters in West Virginia. West submitted 15,000 signatures, but only 6,383 were confirmed, according to Secretary of State spokesperson Mike Queen.

The lawsuit says West did not have a chance to challenge that decision before a drawing for order of names appearing on the ballot, WSAZ-TV reported Monday. The lawsuit requests an emergency hearing date and a ruling that would allow his name to be listed.

West announced a presidential bid in July, saying he's seeking the nation's highest office on a ticket he calls the "Birthday Party."

West has since been gathering signatures to get on the ballot in several states.

Happy love life turns best friend into a Debbie Downer

DEAR ABBY: I have been lucky enough to have fallen madly in love with the most wonderful man in the world. We have been together for two years and living together for almost a year. I'm in my mid-30s; he's in his mid-40s. We both have had plenty of experience in love -- enough to feel sure that we've found the person we want to spend the rest of our lives with.

My best friend has been very disparaging of our relationship and makes rude comments about it. If I tell her how happy we are in spite of the pandemic, she says it's because we're still in the "honeymoon phase." If I describe something kind that my boyfriend has done for me, she adopts a condescending tone and makes remarks about "new love" and that I should enjoy this now because it will change.

She's the same age I am and has been with her fiance for nine years. I have always been very supportive of their relationship, but she seems incapable of offering me the same level of support in my love life. When I try to talk to her about something she has said or done that bothers me, she often becomes aggressive, and I don't know how to approach this subject without getting into an argument or losing our friendship. What should I do?

PROUDLY LUCKY IN LOVE

DEAR PROUDLY LUCKY: Could your friend be suffering from a touch of jealousy because you constantly extoll your boyfriend's virtues? Her cynicism may have something to do with the fact that she and her fiance have been together for nine years with no marriage in sight.

If you can't talk to her about sensitive issues without her becoming aggressive or you being afraid of losing the friendship, it doesn't take a crystal ball to see the two of you are growing increasingly distant with the passage of time. I do think you should ask your friend why she reacts the way she does and tell her how it makes you feel. It may be the only way to save your friendship.

DEAR ABBY: At what age is it no longer appropriate for children to play naked while outside in their yard?

We are a childless couple in our 60s who live in a suburban neighborhood in the Northeast. A new couple moved here with their children, a boy and a girl, who appear to be about 5 and 8 years old. Both of them often are naked while playing in their yard. This happens in all kinds of weather, not just when it's extremely hot.

We all have fairly large yards, but none of the yards in the neighborhood are private. Neighbors on both sides of this family and anyone walking up or down the street can see the children. We are not prudes, but this happens frequently, and it makes us uncomfortable. Is it time for us to move?

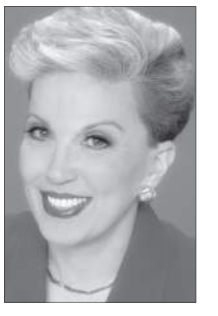
AVERTING MY EYES

DEAR AVERTING: Five- and 8-year-old minors are too old to be naked in public. Pay a visit to your new neighbors' house and introduce yourself. Ask why the kids play outside with no clothes on. Gauge what you learn, and if you suspect neglect or abuse, report it to Child Protective Services.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

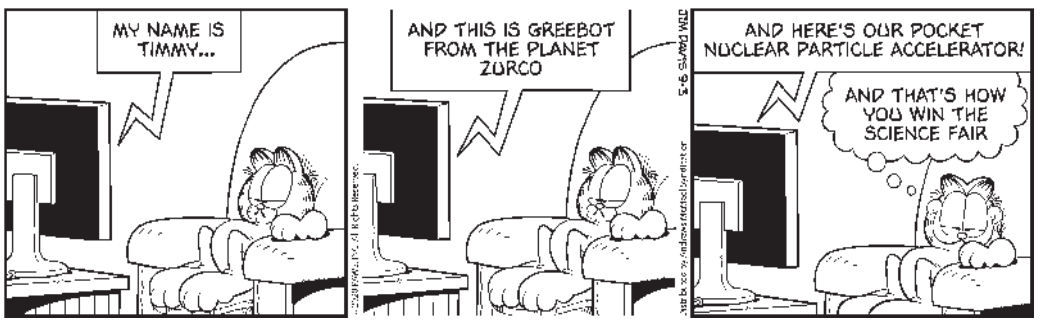
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

LOOK SUSIE, I'LL GIVE YOU YOUR DOLL AND I'LL GIVE YOU A QUARTER, OK? IT'S ALL I HAVE. WILL YOU LET HOBBES OUT NOW??
ALL RIGHT, HERE. AND NEXT TIME, LEAVE MY STUFF ALONE. GOT IT?
RIGHT! SURE!
JERK.
WHAT KIND OF TIGER ARE YOU?! YOU DIDN'T EVEN MAUL HER! WHAT WERE YOU DOING THERE?!
WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO KNOW!

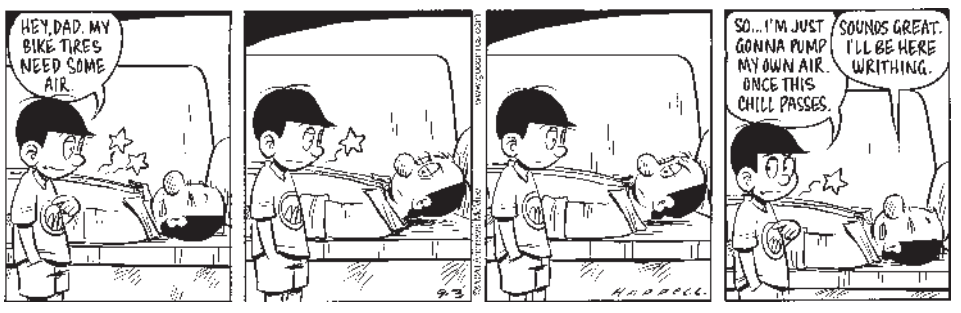
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


MY NAME IS TIMMY...
AND THIS IS GREEBOT FROM THE PLANET ZURCO
AND HERE'S OUR POCKET NUCLEAR PARTICLE ACCELERATOR!
AND THAT'S HOW YOU WIN THE SCIENCE FAIR

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HEY, DAD. MY BIKE TIRES NEED SOME AIR.
SO... I'M JUST GONNA PUMP MY OWN AIR. ONCE THIS CHILL PASSES.
SOUNDS GREAT. I'LL BE HERE WRITHING.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CAN I HAVE 5 BUCKS TO BUY THE NEXT ROUND?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST COME OUT AND ASK ME TO BUY ANOTHER ROUND?!
I DON'T LIKE TO BE THAT BRAZEN.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

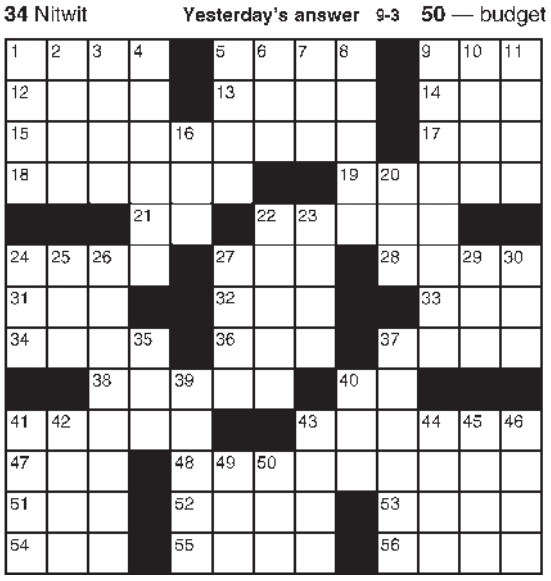
ACROSS
1 Morse —
5 Chest muscles, briefly
9 "Keep it down!"
12 Mideast gulf
13 Beige
14 Uncle (Sp.)
15 Amish desk type
17 USN bigwig
18 Juan's pals
19 Concur
21 Yours truly
22 Get more magazines
24 Tower city
27 Oft-tattooed word
28 Zhivago's love
31 "— was saying ..."
32 Dhabi preceder
33 "Awesome, dude!"
34 Nitwit
36 French article
37 AOL and MSN
38 Receded
40 Qt. fraction
41 "Let's Dance" singer
43 Potpourri pouch
47 Prefix with gram or center
48 Sister of Rose Red
51 Allow
52 Sicilian spouter
53 Flair
54 German cry
55 Compared to
56 Specks

DOWN
1 Juanita's home
2 "Hamilton" actor Leslie — Jr.
3 Sub shop
4 Puzzle
5 Church furniture
6 Author Umberto
7 — -Magnon
8 Egypt's neighbor
9 George Lucas sci-fi classic
10 Conceal
11 Abode
16 Fawn's mama
20 Solidify
22 Judicially clad
23 Flightless birds
24 Cushion
25 Equal (Pref.)
26 Stand up for
27 Like ganders
29 Knock
30 Billboards
35 Kimono sash
37 Reacted to a bug bite
39 Plague
40 Dog's foot
41 Lugosi of film
42 Oil cartel
43 Graceful bird
44 Hawaiian city
45 Coup d'—
46 Till bills
49 Ultimate
50 — budget

Solution time: 24 mins.

E	L	A	N	■	M	U	G	■	S	A	M	S
L	I	S	A	■	U	S	E	■	A	L	O	T
M	O	H	A	N	D	A	S	■	I	A	M	A
O	N	E	C	U	P	■	S	A	L	M	A	N
■	■	■	P	T	A	■	C	I	E	■	■	■
O	E	R	■	S	C	H	■	E	N	D	O	W
P	L	O	T	■	K	I	D	■	G	A	V	E
T	O	T	E	M	■	S	I	F	■	S	A	T
■	■	■	U	H	A	L	■	V	I	C	■	■
B	O	N	S	A	■	■	O	I	O	C	L	E
L	A	D	E	■	V	E	R	A	N	D	A	S
I	R	A	S	■	■	N	C	■	D	E	M	S
P	S	S	T	■	D	F	F	■	O	R	F	O

Yesterday's answer 9-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rita Volk, 30; Shaun White, 34; Omi, 34; Garrett Hedlund, 36.

Happy Birthday: Take the road less traveled and you'll discover something that has been missing in your life. It's time to explore what's available and test your knowledge and experience to ensure that it is ready to take on something new and exciting. Forge into the future with optimism and enthusiasm. Build strong affiliations with people who share your goals. Your numbers are 7, 11, 19, 21, 25, 33, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Make the most of your time. Spend more time physically making things happen and less time talking and trying to convince others to pitch in and help. Don't waste time arguing with someone who isn't likely to budge. Focus on achieving your goal. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You'll crave change. Don't expect or wait for something to happen. Take charge, and put your plan in motion. How you deal with matters that affect work and home will determine how much you achieve. Dedication will lead to success. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Be careful who you let into your circle. Don't be fooled by someone promising you the impossible. Put your energy into unfinished business. You cannot move forward until you take care of the past. Freedom is your ticket to new beginnings. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Dream a little dream, and turn it into reality. Approach uncertainty with an open mind, and you will discover a way to reach your objective. Serious talks with someone you share personal or professional plans with will be rewarding. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Take the lead, and do whatever it will take to live up to your promises. Don't trust someone who uses emotional manipulation. Recognize when someone is trying to take advantage of you. Hard work and honesty count. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Engage in something new and exciting. Your happiness is your responsibility, make sure you do things that bring you comfort and joy. Relationships look promising. Progressive action will encourage personal stability. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Sit back and observe. Have patience when dealing with unreasonable individuals. Silence is your best bet until you come up with an alternative plan that offers something for everyone. Pay more attention to your health and emotional well-being. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Take pleasure in the people and things that bring you the most joy. Be imaginative; what you come up with will capture the attention of someone special. Learn from the experience, and everything will unfold the way you want. Romance is featured. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Keep your thoughts to yourself, and your passwords, personal matters and possessions tucked away someplace safe. Don't take a risk when it comes to money, health or contractual dealings. Make physical fitness and health your priorities. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take a moment to remember what's happened in the past before you trust or engage in something similar. Change is favored, but it has to be for the right reason. Talk to someone you trust and love to help you make a decision. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Your intuition will be right on target. Let your feelings lead the way, and you will avoid making a mistake. When in doubt, you are always best to take a pass. Making personal improvements and doing what's best for you are encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Do something that you find entertaining. Join an online dance or fitness class, or reach out to someone you enjoy spending time with and share your feelings. Personal improvements, along with love and romance, are in your best interest. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charming, adaptable and reliable. You are creative and passionate.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		5				2		
				6	8	9		
9		3		2			1	8
							9	
	6	2				8	3	
	7							
5	9			8		7		2
		6	7	9				
		8				4		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/03

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	9	6	3	4	8	5	1	2
2	1	8	5	9	7	3	4	6
5	3	4	2	1	6	7	8	9
8	5	2	7	3	1	9	6	4
6	4	9	8	5	2	1	7	3
3	7	1	4	6	9	8	2	5
9	8	7	6	2	5	4	3	1
4	6	5	1	8	3	2	9	7
1	2	3	9	7	4	6	5	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/03

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

HOLD THE PAYMENTS Solution: 10 letters

M	R	A	K	C	E	H	C	O	M	P	A	N	Y	S
R	E	L	L	E	S	P	O	H	S	L	A	G	E	L
B	N	T	T	C	U	D	E	D	A	T	E	X	U	B
A	T	T	I	M	I	A	L	C	P	R	A	T	I	H
L	A	W	A	R	D	H	T	I	W	T	G	L	O	S
A	L	E	E	O	F	R	E	E	R	N	L	E	P	H
N	T	C	V	U	B	C	L	A	I	S	L	E	T	I
C	T	I	N	A	E	A	N	D	S	U	N	E	C	P
E	R	D	S	R	S	S	N	E	R	D	K	O	E	P
R	S	E	R	O	A	E	R	K	E	C	S	C	V	I
E	Y	N	D	C	P	D	E	B	I	T	A	A	O	N
B	E	T	T	I	D	E	I	T	U	S	A	R	R	G
M	N	I	D	A	T	E	D	Z	H	Y	E	D	P	D
U	O	T	N	U	O	C	C	A	D	L	E	H	P	U
N	M	Y	F	I	R	E	V	A	L	I	D	R	A	U

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Account, Address, Approve, Balance, Bank, Bills, Buyer, Card, Cash, Charge, Check, Claim, Company, Cost, Credit, Dated, Debit, Deduct, Deposit, Direct, Free, Funds, Hotel, Identity, Item, Legal, Money, Number, Pending, Receipt, Rental, Rule, Sale, Save, Seller, Shipping, Shop, Spend, Taxes, Ticket, Transaction, Update, Upheld, Valid, Verify, Withdrawal

Yesterday's Answer: Cackle

The NEW **Treasury 41** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Celtics rally, take 2-0 lead against Raptors

FLORIDA (AP)—Marcus Smart didn't like a call that went against him late in the third quarter, a moment that made it seem like the Toronto Raptors were taking control against the Boston Celtics.

So, in the fourth quarter, he took matters into his own hands.

Smart changed the game with 16 points in a dazzling three-minute stretch early in the fourth, Jayson Tatum led everybody with 34 points and the Celtics have the reigning NBA champions in serious trouble. Boston topped Toronto 102-99 on Monday night, taking a 2-0 lead in their Eastern Conference semifinal matchup.

"Once I saw the first one go in, I knew," Smart said.

He was right.

Smart made five 3-pointers in a span of 3:04, turning the last of those into a four-point play as the Celtics erased what had been a 12-point deficit late in the third. Kemba Walker scored 11 of Boston's final 16 points from there, the last of them a stepback jumper in the final minute, and the Celtics added to a season of mastery over Toronto.

Not only do they lead the series 2-0, but they're 3-0 against the Raptors in the NBA's restart bubble and 5-1 against them this season.

"One game at a time," Tatum said. "This series is far from over. You've got to win four."

Smart scored 19 points, Walker had 17 and Jaylen Brown scored 16 for the Celtics.

OG Anunoby had 20 points for Toronto, which got 19 from Fred VanVleet—who missed a 28-footer as time expired. Serge Ibaka and Pascal Siakam scored 17 points apiece and Kyle Lowry added 16 for Toronto.

"The shots are there," Lowry said. "We just have to make them. ... All we've got to do is get one game."

The Raptors had the Celtics under control late in the third quarter, taking a 12-point lead)—the momentum seeming like it had swung on an overturned call that, correctly, went Toronto's way. A layup by VanVleet, followed by a free throw from Siakam after officials reversed a call that he said he fouled Smart, gave Toronto a 78-66 lead with 2:46 left in the third.

The Raptors scored only nine points in the next 10:39, and missed 23 of their final 28 shots overall. But just when things looked like they had gone totally awry, Toronto scored five straight to make it a 95-92 game with 3:35 left, and the Raptors got within one on a pair of free throws by Lowry with 1:01 remaining.

They didn't score again. And just as they were last year against Milwaukee, the Raptors are in an 0-2 hole.

"Well, I think we should know we shouldn't give up, right? We know the next game's super critical," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said. "But they're all critical. They are. But we know this one's super critical."

AP

Toronto Raptors' Kyle Lowry, left, has his pass blocked by Boston Celtics' Jaylen Brown, right, in the second half of an NBA conference semifinal playoff game, Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Nuggets 80, Jazz 78

Jamal Murray helped a heartbroken Donovan Mitchell off the floor for a handshake and hug, a show of respect between players who had a memorable battle in the bubble.

They traded historic offensive fireworks for six games, before Game 7 turned into an old-fashioned defensive struggle.

"It was a great battle. I don't know what else to say. I'm speechless," Murray said.

The ending left everyone out of words.

Nikola Jokic made the tiebreaking basket with 27 seconds left and the Nuggets advanced to the second round of the playoffs, beating the Utah Jazz 80-78 on Tuesday night when Mike Conley's 3-pointer spun out at the buzzer.

The Nuggets became the 12th team in NBA history to overcome a 3-1 deficit to win a series, but only after they blew a 19-point lead in this game.

"A lot of teams would have just given in, especially when you consider we've been here 57 days away from our families," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said.

After Jokic's basket, the Jazz got the ball to Mitchell following a timeout. The Nuggets stole it from him and raced down for a fast break, but Torrey Craig missed the layup. Utah rebounded and pushed the ball up the floor to Conley, whose jumper looked good all the way until it fell out.

"It looked good, man. Sometimes, it's just the way it works," Mitchell said.

"We fought hard and came back. I'd go to war with any one of these guys in the locker room, any one of these coaches. We could've easy chalked it up in the first half. We have grit and fight. That's all you can really ask for."

Jokic had 30 points and 14 rebounds and Murray scored 17 points. No. 3 seed Denver advanced to face the second-seeded Los Angeles Clippers in the Western Conference semifinals.

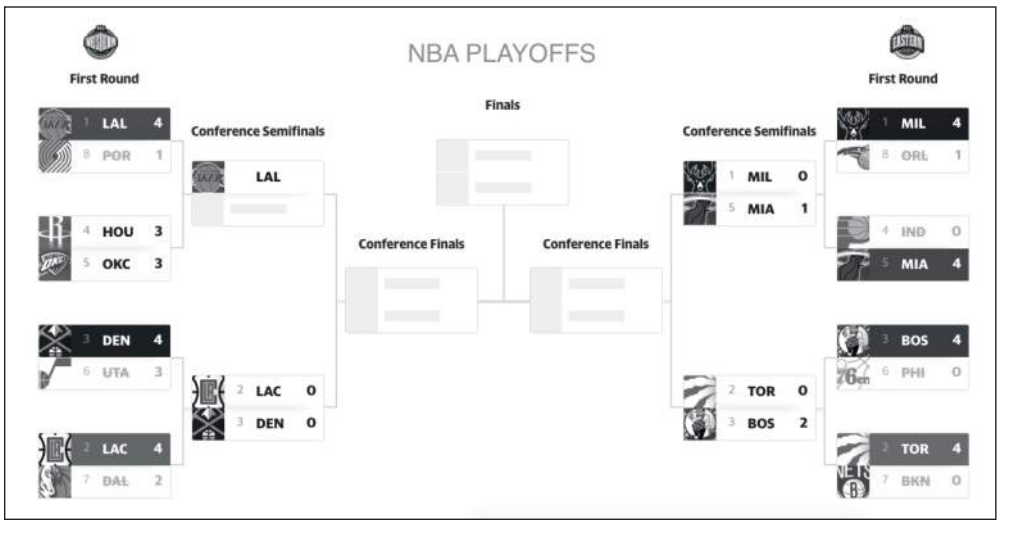
"Before the series started I felt it was going to be an interesting series. But after 3-1 I didn't think it was going to be this interesting," Jokic said. "So I'm glad that we won the game and I'm glad that we won the series."

Mitchell scored 22 points and Rudy Gobert finished with 19 points and 18 rebounds after a huge second half for the Jazz.

Murray shot only 7 for 21, far off his performances of the past three games. So the Nuggets turned more to Jokic, their All-Star center who tossed in a short hook shot in the lane after the Jazz had tied it at 78.

"That's when you need Nikola to step up," Malone said.

Murray and Mitchell became the first pair of players to have two 50-point games in the same series, but the men in the middle were the biggest factors in this one.



Barca wants face-to-face meeting to change Messi's mind

SPAIN (AP)—Barcelona is banking on a face-to-face meeting with Lionel Messi to try to convince him to stay.

Talks with Messi's father, who is also his agent, are expected this week in Barcelona, but the club also hopes to sit down with the player himself.

Messi has been offered a two-year contract extension, a club official with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the person is not authorized to speak publicly about the issue.

The contract would run through the 2022-23 season. Both sides had already preagreed on most of the terms a few months ago, according to the club official.

Barcelona and Messi have yet to talk directly since the Argentine said last week that he wanted to leave the club. He made his announcement 11 days after the season ended in an 8-2 loss to Bayern Munich in the quarterfinals of the Champions League.

The humiliating defeat on Aug. 14 capped a complicated season for Barcelona, the first without a title since 2007-08.

Messi then invoked a clause that would allow him to leave for free at the end of the season, but Barcelona said the clause expired in June. Messi's staff is expected to claim that the end of the season was pushed back because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Neither side has yet to concede, with Messi not showing up for training along with the rest of the squad this week and Barcelona saying it will not facilitate his departure.

Barcelona reiterated its stance that it wants Messi to remain with the club and that it is not planning to negotiate his transfer. His contract ends in June 2021 and has a buyout clause of 700 million euros ($838 million).

Club president Josep Bartomeu first talked to Messi's father over the phone after the loss to Bayern and was told that Messi was frustrated and disappointed. They talked again a few times after Messi announced his decision to leave, but the first personal meeting between the two was expected to happen in the coming days.

The club hopes, though, that it can solve the problem by meeting with Messi in person and convincing him that the best decision for him is to stay.

Messi, who has often said in the past that he wanted to finish his career with Barcelona, has not publicly expressed his reasons for wanting to leave. He never directly named Bartomeu in his criticism of the club, but the president said last week he was willing to resign if Messi cited him as the problem.

Barcelona said it was not talking to any clubs about a possible transfer but it was open to negotiating for the players who incoming coach Ronald Koeman said were not included in his plans, including Luis Suarez, Arturo Vidal and Samuel Umtiti.

Ivan Rakitic, who also was in that list, was signed by Sevilla on Tuesday.

Yanks, Rays rekindle feud after Chapman's wild pitch

NEW YORK (AP)—Yankees closer Aroldis Chapman threw a 101 mph fastball near the head of pinch-hitter Michael Brosseau while closing out his first save of the season, prompting the benches to empty after New York ended a six-game losing streak against the Tampa Bay Rays with a 5-3 victory Tuesday night.

Chapman's first pitch to Brosseau with two outs in the ninth inning whizzed past Brosseau's head, and umpires met before issuing warnings to both benches amid a budding rivalry that's been dominated this season by Tampa Bay. The Rays are 7-2 against the Yankees and lead second-place New York by 3 1/2 games.

Chapman struck out Brosseau to end it, and Brosseau began walking toward the visiting dugout before turning back to exchange words with someone on the Yankees. The dugouts and benches emptied and players gathered near home plate, but they mostly kept their distance before dispersing to their respective clubhouses.

Yankees starter Masahiro Tanaka hit Joey Wendle with a pitch in the first inning, which Rays manager Kevin Cash believed was intentional.

"It's absolutely ridiculous," Cash said. "It was mishandled by the Yankees. Certainly the pitcher on the mound. It was mishandled by the umpires.

"Somebody has to be accountable. The last thing I'll say on it is I got a whole damn stable full of guys that throw 98 mph. Period."

Told of Cash's threat, Yankees manager Aaron Boone said it was "a pretty scary comment. I don't think that's right at all. But I'm not going to get into it right now."

Teams have been warned not to leave the benches this season as part of the league's coronavirus protocols. Players on both sides seemed to be urging others to deescalate.

Phillies 6, Nationals 0

Aaron Nola tossed two-hit ball over eight innings, Andrew McCutchen hit a three-run homer and Alec Bohm also went deep to lead Philadelphia past Washington.

Nola (4-2) threw 113 pitches in his latest dominant outing before he yielded to Hector Neris for the ninth. He struck out nine and allowed two or fewer runs for the fifth time this season.

Orioles 9, Mets 5

Renato Nunez hit two home runs, Anthony Santander also went deep and Baltimore dealt the Mets their fifth straight loss.

Nunez hit a three-run drive off Mets newcomer Ariel Jurado to give Baltimore an early lead. After New York made it 5-all, Santander's 11th homer of the season capped a three-run sixth against Franklyn Kilome (0-1).

Marlins 3, Blue Jays 2

Starling Marte celebrated his Miami debut with a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning.

Marte drove a 1-0 pitch from Shun Yamaguchi (1-3) deep to left-center for his third homer. He also reached on an error in the sixth and scored from first on Garrett Cooper's double.

Cardinals 16, Reds 2

Brad Miller homered twice and drove in a career-high seven runs, and the Cardinals pounded Sonny Gray on the way to their third straight win.

Miller sparked St. Louis' six-run first inning against Gray (5-2) with a two-run double that glanced off the glove of diving first baseman Joey Votto and bounced down the line.

Braves 10, Red Sox 3

Marcell Ozuna hit three home runs in a game for the first time in his career and finished with six RBI, leading Atlanta in a rout of Boston.

Ozuna, who was 3 for 5, hit a two-run homer in the first inning, a solo shot in the seventh and a three-run blast in the eighth.

AP

New York Yankees relief pitcher Aroldis Chapman, left, tosses a ball up after umpires warned both benches not to start a fight after Chapman threw a high pitch at Tampa Bay in the ninth inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2020, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Tigers 12, Brewers 1

Victor Reyes had four hits and five RBI, and Detroit pounded Milwaukee for its sixth straight victory.

Detroit moved back above .500 at 17-16, but it lost starting outfielder JaCoby Jones to a fractured left hand. Jones was hit by a pitch from Phil Bickford in the eighth inning in the reliever's big league debut.

Indians 10, Royals 1

Zach Plesac returned to the Indians with six solid innings after being punished for breaking coronavirus protocols, and Cleveland beat Kansas City.

Plesac (2-1) allowed a run and four hits, striking out six and walking none. He pitched for the first time since Aug. 8 after getting caught breaking curfew.

Twins 3, White Sox 2

Byron Buxton returned with a bang and so did Michael Pineda, rallying Minnesota past the White Sox to snap a six-game losing streak.

Buxton came off the injured list and had two hits, including the go-ahead single in the seventh inning.

Rangers 6, Astros 5, 10 innings

Elvis Andrus hit a tying solo homer in the ninth inning and Texas got two runs in the 10th on a balk and two errors to beat Houston.

Scott Heineman started the 10th on second base and advanced to third on a groundout by Shin-Soo Choo. The Rangers took the lead when he scored on a balk by Blake Taylor (1-1).

Dodgers 6, Diamondbacks 3

Chris Taylor drove in a season-high four runs and Julio Urias pitched six innings of four-hit ball in the Dodgers' victory over Arizona.

Taylor, AJ Pollock and Max Muncy had two hits apiece as Los Angeles opened a six-game homestand with its third straight victory.

Cubs 8, Pirates 6, 11 innings

Ian Happ singled home Nico Hoerner in the 11th inning, leading the Cubs to the victory.

Happ also led off the game with a home run. He finished with three hits and two RBI for the NL Central leaders.

Pittsburgh prospect Ke'Bryan Hayes, the son of longtime major league infielder Charlie Hayes, had two hits and scored three times in his big league debut.

Giants 23, Rockies 5

Alex Dickerson hit three home runs and matched a career high with six RBI, highlighting one of the biggest offensive shows ever at Coors Field as San Francisco beat Colorado.

Brandon Crawford also homered among his three hits and had six RBI, and Donovan Solano had four hits and six RBI. Brandon Belt and Joey Bart added three hits apiece as the Giants collected 27 hits overall and scored in every inning except the ninth in winning for the 10th time in 13 games.

Jackson headlines QB-driven AFC North

BALTIMOTE (AP)—It's all about the quarterbacks in the AFC North, a division that includes the reigning NFL MVP, the top pick in the 2020 draft and a two-time Super Bowl winner looking to make a successful comeback.

The Baltimore Ravens won the AFC North last year behind Lamar Jackson, who accounted for 1,206 of the team's NFL-record 3,296 yards rushing. He also threw for 3,127 yards and 36 touchdowns before running away with the MVP trophy.

Baltimore went 14-2 last season, then lost its playoff opener to Tennessee. Despite that defeat, the Ravens remain the team to beat because of their diverse offense and after adding Calais Campbell, Derek Wolfe and first-round draft pick Patrick Queen to a defense that yielded only 17.6 points per game in 2019.

For the Ravens, winning the AFC North is merely one facet of their overriding goal.

"Man, the only thing I really want is a Super Bowl," cornerback Marlon Humphrey said. "I know Lamar has spoken about that a lot. He's the leader of this group, and we're all trying to get the same thing."

The rest of the AFC North is up for the challenge of unseating Baltimore. The Pittsburgh Steelers have back Ben Roethlisberger, who missed most of last season with an elbow injury; the Cincinnati Bengals expect big things from top draft pick Joe Burrow; and the Browns hope quarterback Baker Mayfield can flourish under a new coach.

The Steelers are using Roethlisberger's surgically repaired right elbow to prop open a narrowing title window during the final stages of their longtime quarterback's career.

Pittsburgh spent the offseason looking for ways to bolster an offense that floundered in 2019 while Roethlisberger watched from the sideline after his injury in Week 2. The Steelers signed free agent tight end Eric Ebron and drafted wide receiver Chase Claypool in the second round, hoping to restore some of the potency to an air attack that fell flat with Mason Rudolph and Devlin "Duck" Hodges under center.

The Browns have turned the page on 2019, when they crumbled under outside expectations— and their own.

This is a critical year for Mayfield, who followed a sensational rookie season by regressing (22 TDs, 21 interceptions) during a 6-10 clunker that was followed by yet another coaching change in Cleveland. Mayfield dedicated himself to getting in better shape and he arrived at training camp looking trim and acting more mature.

The bottomed-out Bengals made themselves relevant again by drafting Heisman Trophy winner Burrow. The question is: How much of an impact he can make right away on a 2-14 team after limited practice time and no preseason because of pandemic precautions?

Burrow has playmakers around him—A.J. Green, Tyler Boyd, Joe Mixon—but it's tough being a rookie starting quarterback even under the best conditions. In Cincinnati, things are never optimal.

At least it will be interesting to watch it play out.

"I feel very comfortable with my guys, and I think we're going to be pretty good on offense," Burrow said. "I'm excited more than nervous, I'd say."

Serena sets record in US Open

AP
Serena Williams of United States returns a shot to fellow American Kristie Ahn during the first round of the US Open tennis championships, Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2020, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Making quick work of an opponent for a change, Serena Williams wrapped up her 102nd career U.S. Open match win to break a tie with Chris Evert for the most in the professional era.

Then Williams headed back out to the Arthur Ashe Stadium stands Tuesday night, her dog in tow. Williams had a match to watch—her older sister's, which did not work out as well.

Serena Williams, who turns 39 this month, defeated Kristie Ahn 7-5, 6-3. But Venus Williams, who is 40, lost in the U.S. Open's first round for the first time in 22 appearances, beaten 6-3, 7-5 by No. 20 Karolina Muchova.

It is the fourth time in the past five Grand Slam tournaments that Venus exited in her opening match.

"I just ran out of time today," Venus said.

Venus, who won two of her seven major singles championships in New York, was trying to become only the third woman in her 40s to win a U.S. Open singles match.

"We would have never thought we would still be out here, to be honest," Serena said. "I love my job. At the end of the day, I love what I do. I've always said, 'You can't do it forever,'" she said after delivering 13 aces and dropping only six points on her serve.

"One of these days," Serena said, "it's going to end."

She has won 23 Grand Slam singles titles, the most in the professional era, which began in 1968; only Margaret Court collected more, with 24.

Six of Serena's trophies came at the U.S. Open, and she also was the runner-up four times, including each of the past two years.

Entering Tuesday, Serena had been 3-2 since tennis matches resumed after a hiatus because of the coronavirus pandemic—and all five went three sets.

So Tuesday's match was a welcome change.

"It's been years—since the '90s—since I won a match in straight sets," Serena joked.

"I've been playing a ton of tight matches," she said. "I felt like, all right, I just wanted to be 'Serena-focused' from the first point to the last point, no matter what happens."

Her career mark at the hard-court event is 102-13, a winning percentage of .887.

"In a weird way, I feel like every time I come here, I'm being told I broke another record," Serena said.

"It's cool. I don't think I appreciate it enough, which is unfortunate," she said. "But I'm in the middle of a Grand Slam, so it's not the time to be focused for me on records when I'm thinking about winning a tournament."

Meanwhile, the man who joined Novak Djokovic in trying to start a new association to represent male tennis players, Vasek Pospisil, said there's been "a lot of misleading information in terms of what we're trying to accomplish" in setting up the Professional Tennis Players Association (PTPA).

Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal are among those who have said they're not in favor of the proposal to set up something outside of the ATP Tour.

As things stand, tennis players do not have a union, the way athletes in the major North American team sports do.

"The structure within the ATP leaves the players completely, like, powerless," Pospisil said. "Our voices are just not heard. That's all we're trying to do here.

Pospisil reached the U.S. Open's second round on Tuesday by beating Philipp Kohlschreiber 7-6 (4), 7-5, 7-6 (3) and will face 2016 Wimbledon runner-up Milos Raonic in an all-Canadian matchup next.

In other news, one of the two players dropped from the Western & Southern Open draw last month after their fitness trainer tested positive for the coronavirus spoke out Tuesday about what he called unfair treatment.

Guido Pella, an Argentine seeded 29th at Flushing Meadows, lost his first-round match at the U.S. Open to American wild-card entry J.J. Wolf 6-2, 0-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Pella said he tested negative nine times for COVID-19 but still was quarantined and withdrawn from the Western & Southern Open—along with Bolivia's Hugo Dellien, who also lost Tuesday —after they had contact with the trainer. Seven players were allowed to remain in the U.S. Open after they had contact with another player, Benoit Paire, who tested positive.

"I suffered one of the worst injustices," Pella said. "We were not treated equally."

2023

From Page 20

that will be the headquarters of the Games.

The Solomon Islands has yet to record a COVID-19 case, but is still having challenges with incoming and outgoing flights.

Pacific Games Council chief executive Andrew Minogue was quoted by Inside the Games through Radio New Zealand, as he suggested to utilize a charter flight to bring in the Chinese project team.

"It's largely for repatriation of Solomon Island citizens that are over there but also I think to possibly bring in some design teams from China to be on the ground and start at the next level of intensive design work for the venues in Honiara," Minogue said.

The PCG official added that construction needs to begin soon if the original timetable is to be maintained.

"By next year I think," Minogue said. "Mid-2021 gives them sort of 18 months to two years to have the venues ready is sort of a guiding timeline that we've had. They need to be able to keep going with that program to get things ready on time." ***(Saipan Tribune)***

CEPEDA

From Page 20

sponsored motocross races for years in the early 2000s.

Motocross eventually took a long break and so did Cepeda, so he's glad that this year, the familiar faces he used to see when the sports was a hit on the island gathered together to revive racing in the CNMI.

"What started with three to five dirt bikers' meeting every Sunday back in April has quickly grown. Our members consist of new dirt bike and ATV riders as young as 4 years old to experienced riders. Some of these veteran riders used to race at the People's Park back in the late '70s and the Cowtown Raceway Park over 13 years ago. The environment when everyone gathers is a welcome feeling. It is an awesome sensation to be a part of the group," Cepeda said.

He added that seeing young kids bravely trying their way out to the course that MRA designated for beginners reminds him of his time as a novice in the sport.

"Riding dirt bikes or ATV's brings an adrenaline rush like no other activity. Each racer experiences that every time you get on the track. The track gives challenges that builds on that adrenaline. Even if you come to the same track every day, a track made of dirt changes and with different hurdles each time," Cepeda said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Charles Cepeda gets ready to clear one of the hills along the Kan Pacific race course during last Sunday's exhibition races.

The veteran rider is also impressed with the young guns showing up at the track and he and his fellow old-timers are ready to support them.

"As a young rider, you jump on the track thinking you are invincible to nothing that stands in the way of revving that bike and getting up in the air with it as one. While you mature in age, as in life itself, you pick up more smarts on the track. A few current racers are over 40 years old and they bring experience, caution, and know how to share with the younger riders and newbies to motocross. I am excited that we've been seeing new, young riders coming to the track and getting into it," Cepeda said.

Celtics rally, take 2-0 lead against Raptors

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Yanks, Rays rekindle feud after Chapman's wild pitch

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Cepeda regains adrenaline rush

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Charles Cepeda is airborne after going through one of the hills along the Kan Pacific race course last Sunday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Charles Cepeda, center, joins his fellow veteran riders for a photo after last Sunday's exhibition races.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Just like yesteryears, the sight of the dirt track gives veteran rider Charles Cepeda the adrenaline rush that got him into motocross decades ago.

Cepeda is among the islands' riders doing practice rounds every Sunday at the raceway surrounding the Kan Pacific Pool in Marpi—the temporary home of the revived Marianas Racing Association. Incidentally, it was the same track (known as People's Park) where the then third-grader Cepeda got his first taste of the thrills of navigating his way through whoops and other obstacles along the course.

"Riding dirt bike back at the People's Park track was thrilling and exhilarating for a young 8-year old on a RM85 Suzuki. As a young kid, I wanted to experience the jumps, high speed, sound of the bike, dust in the air—this is what got me into motocross. The adrenaline builds up when even when you're just starting to put on your safety gear, helmet, and gloves, and hop on the bike to go out on the track," Cepeda said.

From the People's Park, the Pacific Trading Co. executive took his dirt bike to the Cowtown Raceway Park where he eventually jumped into ATV and then had his company

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Construction of facilities for 2023 Pacific Games has yet to begin

Nearly two months after the Solomon Islands reiterated its commitment to host the 2023 Pacific Games, construction of the facilities for the competition has yet to start due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the Inside the Games website covering various tournaments in the Pacific, several projects for the 2023 Pacific Games are funded by the Chinese government, but the project team from China can't travel yet to the Solomon Islands and only preparatory work is being done remotely.

INSIDE THE GAMES PHOTO
Construction of the Solomon Islands' National Stadium that will be used for the 2023 Pacific Games was originally sponsored by Taiwan before the Chinese government took over.

The Solomon Islands through the help of China is scheduled to start construction of the National Stadium this year. Other facilities that will be built for the 2023 Pacific Games are a new Olympic-size swimming pool, five tennis courts, a new practice athletics track, a hockey field, a multi-purpose sports hall and a 1,200 square foot office

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